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Wednesday June 24 1998

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Real Lives

Does every girl need a gay?

G2 with European weather

Polly Toynbee

Divorce – the great liberator

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Environment

Those who live in straw houses...

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Ethical arms policy in disarray

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE Government has approved more than 2,000 licences for arms exports to some of the world's most volatile trouble-spots, in apparent breach of its ethical foreign policy guidelines, according to a report published today.

They include categories covering the supply of small arms and machine guns to security forces in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Indonesia, despite a pledge that licences would not be granted if there was "a clearly identifiable risk that the export might be used for internal repression".

Sixty-four licences were granted to Indonesia for categories of equipment including bombs, tanks and combat aircraft, some at the height of the political and economic turmoil earlier this year.

A flood of licences has been cleared for India and Pakistan, embroiled in a dispute over Kashmir and nuclear tests, despite recent ministerial statements that arms sales should not be approved if they increased regional tension.

Export licences for "small arms, machine guns and accessories" were granted to Bahrain, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe — all countries on the face of it covered by the guidelines.

Thirty-six export licences were granted to China for categories of equipment including large-calibre weapons, rockets and missiles covered by a European Union embargo. Licences were also granted for arms-related exports to Algeria, which is also covered by the embargo.

The new figures are contained in a report by Saferworld, an independent research group, based on numerous ministerial answers to questions from MPs.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, yesterday pointed to a recent statement by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, about the dangers of an arms race on the Indian sub-continent. "Yet in the light of the fact that 535 licences have been granted to India from May 1, 1997, to May 10, 1998, for such items as bombs, missiles, combat aircraft and riot control agents, we are clearly fuelling an arms race ourselves", Mr Campbell said.

He called for the setting up of a Commons commitee to scrutinise arms exports and individual licence applications.

Labour MP Ann Clwyd said: "It is difficult to know what arms we are selling because it is shrouded in secrecy."

Saferworld concedes that it is impossible to tell exactly what each export licence covers, because the information given is in broad categories. One category ranges from aircraft to parachutes.

However, information based on Department of Trade and Industry statistics show that licences were approved for the supply of "toxological agents, riot control agents and related equipment, including tear gas" to Indonesia, India and Turkey.

Mr Cook said recently the Government had "made it quite clear we will not sell equipment that will be used in internal oppression". Douglas Henderson, the minister responsible for Europe, said earlier this year: "We remain concerned at Turkey's poor human rights record."

Guidelines announced by the Foreign Office soon after Labour came to power state that "an export licence will not be issued if the arguments for doing so are outweighed ... by concern that the goods might be used for internal oppression or international aggression, or by the risks to regional stability, or other considerations."

Though these considerations include the potential effect on Britain's commercial interests and its "essential strategic industrial base", the rules stress the importance of human rights and the need "not to introduce into [a] region new capabilities which would be likely to lead to increased tension".

The Foreign Office said last night that the Government's first annual report on strategic exports — expected next month — would give details of all major export licences. Ministers privately say that the existing DTI system of categories, inherited from the previous government, is unsatisfactory.

Moroccans destroy Scotland's World Cup dream

Stuart Millar

THE legendary good spirits of Scotland's travelling supporters were tested to the limit in St Etienne yesterday when it was revealed that the thousands who had turned up to watch the clash with Morocco on a giant screen would only be shown snippets of the game.

Authorities in the town had promised the 20,000-strong Tartan Army a celebration to match the carnival put on by their previous hosts, Bordeaux. But the fans — some of whom had sold tickets for the game to watch it on the giant screen with ticketless friends — were stunned to discover that the French television company, Cable Plus, would only be flicking between the Scotland game and the Brazil-Norway clash in Marseille.

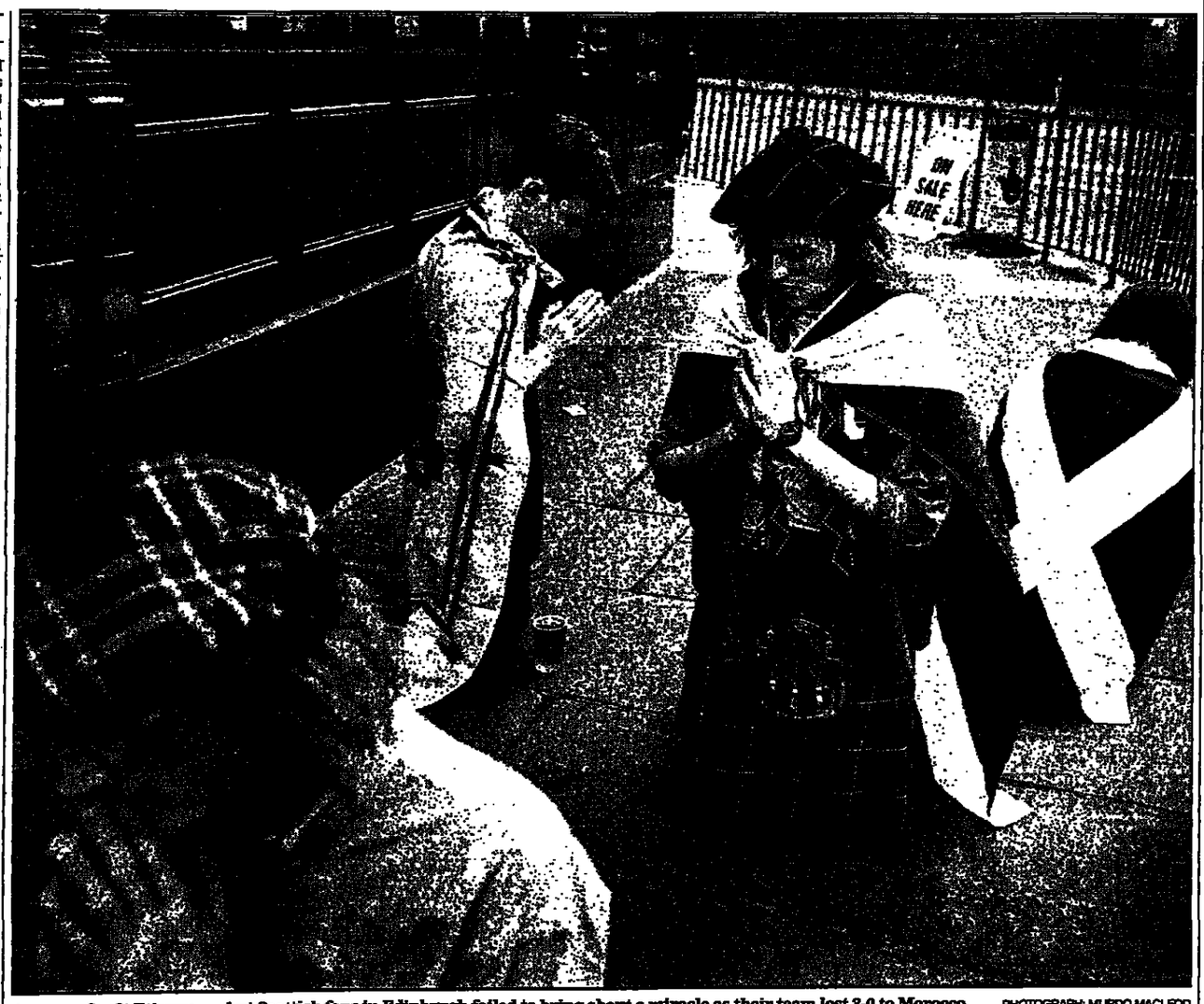
St Etienne's mayor, Michel Thiolliere, said: "We understand that the Scottish would love to watch their match and I am sure they will see a lot of it, but it will be mixed with the Brazil and Norway game."

The only way Scottish fans, only a few thousand of whom had tickets, would be able to watch the match would be on a private television which had a satellite station showing the game.

As England supporters left Toulouse after the 2-1 defeat by Romania, one fan was seriously ill in hospital after being stabbed after the game. He was named as Steve Clarke, aged 38, from Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Another England fan was jailed for four months in Toulouse after being caught on video during rioting last week in Marseille.

World Cup Diary, page 5; Sport, pages 13-20



A prayer for St Etienne . . . but Scottish fans in Edinburgh failed to bring about a miracle as their team lost 3-0 to Morocco PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

MPs demand rethink in vitamin row

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to limit drastically the sale of vitamin B6, which is used by two million women every day to combat pre-menstrual tension, must be scrapped, an authoritative MPs' committee demanded yesterday.

The verdict from the Commons Agriculture Select Committee is a damaging blow to ministers whose proposal has already led to supermarkets and chemist chains withdrawing up to 500 health products containing the vitamin from the shelves.

MPs have received more than 110,000 letters of protest. This is the largest critical postbag since the row over beef on the bone and vies with complaints about the Child Support Agency. The MPs said the Government should withdraw plans to limit over-the-counter sales of vitamin B6 to one 10 mg pill a day, or 50 mg from pharmacists.

Instead, there should be a voluntary limit of 100 mg a day and clear health warnings on the bottles. The MPs' findings were based on the latest American research, which points to symptoms such as tingling, numbness and clumsiness associated with long-term doses of 500mg or above.

The committee said the Government's plan was based on flawed and "scientifically unjustifiable" evidence of a health risk with high dose pills.

It accused independent experts responsible for advising the Government of being stubborn, defensive, "curt to the point of rudeness" and "palpably wrong" in assessing the safety of high doses of the vitamin used by up to two million women to treat PMT and other stress disorders.

The report says that the department of health's experts, the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals (COT), had based its recommendations on an 11-year-old study by gynaeco-

turn to page 3, column 4

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Pretty angry woman Paglia quits Dimbleby interview



Camille Paglia: 'He tried to lecture me on rape'

Joanna Coles in New York

IT WAS all planned carefully in advance. The producers had pre-interviewed her about a range of subjects and the actual interview was due to take place at the University of Arts, a small but smart campus in Philadelphia. Which was the first problem.

The small room set aside for Jonathan Dimbleby's interview with Camille Paglia, one of the leading feminist thinkers in the United States, and certainly the most volatile, was deemed by producers to be too dull.

"They told me it was too boring," Professor Paglia raged yesterday, "too small and too drab. So they had booked the presidential suite at the Rittenhouse Hotel instead, because that's where Pretty Woman with Julia Roberts was filmed!"

It was annoying but Ms Paglia was flattered to be one of only four subjects deemed worthy to be filmed while Mr Dimbleby, ITV's leading interviewer, was in the US (the others being Janet Reno, the attorney-general, the author Norman Mailer and the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan).

So she left her academic office and trudged the six blocks in the rain to reach the hotel. "I did think to myself, wait a moment, this is supposed to be a serious political talkshow and they're impressed by a room in which Julia Roberts stayed?" But the prospect of a serious discussion with the interviewer who had skewered Prince Charles intrigued her.

Alas, once she arrived at the hotel things went from bad to worse. "Jonathan Dimbleby was the worst prepared popinjay of a reporter I have ever encountered," she shouted. "He tried to lecture *me* on how women felt when they were raped. He sat there looking at his notes and mouthing his next questions before I had finished my answers."

And so, after 20 minutes of being "hectored by the man", she walked out.

"I tore off the microphone and threw it down," she cried jubilantly. "And the producers pursued me down the corridor desperate for me to go back."

"I was most perplexed when she stalked off," Mr Dimbleby said defensively on his way back to JFK airport in New York yesterday. "I was trying to find out what she thought and she suddenly protested that I'd ambushed her. It was a surprising word to use because I was only reading her own quotes back to her."

His producer, Alexander Gardiner, said it was nonsense to say Mr Dimbleby was unprepared. "I'm not saying he read every comma but he certainly read the relevant chapters of her three books," he said. "I don't think she's used to being challenged."

He confirmed Ms Paglia had been upset by the venue change but said he did not understand why. "The only room made available to us by the university was very grey. And the hotel room was nice; it was used in Pretty Woman."



Jonathan Dimbleby: 'She protested I'd ambushed her'

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Select committee grills PM's press secretary

Campbell denies claims he bullied ministers



Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, being questioned by a select committee. He denied manipulating journalists, and briefing against members of the Cabinet

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister's chief press secretary, Alastair Campbell, yesterday vigorously denied either briefing against or bullying ministers in an attempt to exert control over the whole of government.

Dismissing accusations of "control-freakery", Mr Campbell defended himself against charges of manipulating journalists, leaking government announcements and politicising the civil service.

"I have not briefed against any members of the cabinet," he said. "I happen to think you can put across the government case in a coherent and co-ordinated way, without briefing against anybody."

Mr Campbell, one of the most powerful figures in Whitehall and close to Tony Blair, presented himself as a humble servant of the Government who could not understand the media obsession with him.

He was grilled for more than two hours by MPs on the Commons public administration select committee, which is investigating the role of the government information service after eight key civil servants were sacked or resigned, prompting allegations of politicisation by Labour.

David Ruffley, a Conservative MP and former special adviser in the previous government, pushed Mr Campbell on whether he misled journalists about a telephone call between Mr Blair and the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi. Mr Campbell acknowledged he may have described as "balls" and "crap" press claims that Mr Blair had intervened with Mr Prodi on behalf of the media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

"I may well have said that," he said. "I think that is a colourful expression and one that is likely to work its way into the press."

However, he denied his answer was misleading. Mr Blair had not contacted Mr Prodi but had taken a call from him. Therefore it could not be described as an intervention. He had never briefed on their conversation.

Mr Ruffley suggested it would be helpful if recordings of lobby briefings were made available: Mr Campbell said he would see if what Mr Ruffley called the "Campbell tapes" could be found.

MPs homed in on allegations that Downing Street had been behind criticism of cabinet ministers such as the Chancellor, Gordon Brown (who was described as "psychologically flawed" by a government source), the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark.

Mr Campbell insisted he was not the source of the remark about Mr Brown and did not know who was.

He was pressed on a memo he had sent to the Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, and one of her ministers, Frank Field, warning them about leaks on welfare reform. The correspondence prompted suggestions he was more powerful than ministers. Mr Campbell said he was not accusing them of having leaked it, but the Prime Minister believed there had to be a coherent strategy for dealing with welfare reform.

He added: "In terms of anything I would say to a minister, it is not me that is speaking, it is the spokesman of the Prime Minister."

Asked if he was more important than some ministers, he replied: "I'm not."

Mike Granatt, head of the information service, who sat beside Mr Campbell, admitted the service had been "bruised" by the loss of so many key civil servants, but insisted morale was recovering.

Mr Campbell, challenged about whether the taxpayer should be paying for what appeared to be a party post, pointed to a distinction between his government and party roles. He would rebut attacks from the Conservative Party but would not initiate lobby briefings or press conferences to attack them.

He deplored the rash of leaks of government announcements that had incurred the wrath of the Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, who said it was the business of the House. He also denied being the source of a recent story that the entrepreneur Richard Branson would be knighted in a future honours list.

Mr Campbell said he saw as his role to put the government agenda and prevent journalists wresting control of it. "I think the public has the right to know what the Government is doing in their name at all times."

The nature of the media had changed dramatically, but the size of the Downing Street staff was unchanged from the days of Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, Bernard Ingham, or even Harold Wilson's Joe Haines, he said.

Leader comment, page 9

It was the butler, in the lobby, with a Magnum (and a milky bedtime drink)

Sketch



Simon Hoggart

AT LAST AIR Campbell, Tony Blair's Enforcer, yesterday answered questions from a committee of MPs. He won.

Mr Campbell presented himself as little more than a humble servant of his master, performing small but useful tasks, whether mixing a milky bedtime drink or putting the fricteners on an errant cabinet minister.

One had this vision of the press spokesman mounted on little wheels, moving silently round Downing Street at the summons of a bell rope, a silver tray in one hand and a Magnum with a silencer in the other.

Why, the MPs wanted to know, had the press got hold of this idea that he was in fact a rough, tough political thug, who wielded more power than most ministers, and who would not hesitate to crush all Opposition — in any party?

He reacted as Jeeves might have done, claiming that P G Wodehouse had got entirely the wrong end of the stick. "I think that my part has been hugely overstated . . . I am Mr Wooster's personal manservant, a mere gentleman's gentleman. The important factor in the relationship is him, not me," which is almost what he said, but about Mr Blair.

Unfortunately, the tone of murmured discretion was rather spoiled when Tory MPs started inquiring about the Prodi affair. This was the occasion this year when the Prime Minister was alleged to have put in a good word for Rupert Murdoch while chatting to the Italian prime minister on the phone. Mr Campbell gently pooh-poohed any idea that he might have misled the press on this matter.

Andrew Tyrie (C, Chichester) drawled: "Isn't the issue what you did say to journalists when they inquired about this? You were reported as telling them: 'I can certainly say it's balls ... it's crap'."

This is not the sort of language favoured by the Admirable Crichton, or even by Lord Peter Wimsey's Bunter. Mr Campbell squirmed slightly. "I can't recall every single word I used, but it is not impossible that I used those words."

Not impossible? He uses those words all the time. It's as if John Motson were to claim it was "not impossible" that he had said: "Ooh, I say, lovely touch from Shearer there!"

Mr Campbell went on to say that at no time did he reveal what Messrs Blair and Prodi had actually discussed. But Mr Tyrie returned to the attack. "You used to be a lobby journalist yourself. If someone at Number 10 told you that a story was 'balls' and 'crap,' you might get a little wary of using it."

"That is for them to make a judgment," Mr Campbell replied. This raised another engaging image, of the chief press spokesman saying: "That is utter crap and balls — but of course, it's entirely up to you fellows whether you think it's true."

David Ruffley (C, Bury St Edmunds) tried to persuade him to produce tapes of the relevant briefings. Mr Campbell stalled. Apparently these are just little cassettes and liable to be reused for other recordings: Blair speeches, All Saints CDs and so forth.

Mr Ruffley decided to give them a melodramatic name, The Campbell Tapes, reminiscent of the great Watergate scandal — except that the transcript would have to be dotted: "Expletive left in."

The Tories kept trying. Was he not guilty of snubbing the Commons by leaking policy statements in advance? "No." Had he said that Gordon Brown was "psychologically flawed"? "No . . . and I have never briefed against any member of the Cabinet."

His only job was to present the Prime Minister in the best possible light. Look, he said, at the snobbish coverage of Mr Blair's successful appearance on the Des O'Connor show.

"So it's Mrs Merton next week, is it?" asked Rhodri Morgan, the committee chairman.

"If she bid, if she bid," the battling butler murmured in reply.

Enter via garden, with umbrellas

Review

Edward Greenfield

Garsington Opera

OFFERING Mozart, Rossini and Verdi this year, Garsington boldly celebrates its 10th season with opera in the open air as few if any rivals have ever presented it. No serious problems with neighbours this time, even if the weather has been unkinder than usual.

The worst of the rain failed to dampen spirits, when the starrily cast Lucio Silla, the finest of Mozart's early operas, was followed up with an effervescent production of Rossini's La pietra del paragone (The Touchstone) and crowned with Verdi's final comic masterpiece, Falstaff.

Garsington's great advantage is its stage, a terrace with archways and entrances in front of the stable-block next to the Elizabethan manor. What matter that singers enter from the right through the garden (under umbrellas if necessary), when the cosy setting of the stage can be made to fit almost any opera chosen?

This year, happily, the designers have resisted the temptation to hide the whole place with surreal scenery (as has sometimes happened), and the Rossini, with Charles Peebles drawing lively playing from the Garsington Opera Orchestra, sparkled from first to last, an opera set in a country house homing into the place.

So it was that, with Stefano Vizioli as stage director, characters were clearly defined and even the most complicated twists of plot were instantly clarified.

This was Rossini's first comic opera, dating from 1812 when he was 20, yet he seemed instinctively to know how to time the comedy. It helped to have Patricia Bardon taking the central mezzo sole as the heroine, the Marchioness Clarice, not just phenomenally agile in her singing but characterful too, with her rich tone only occasionally marred by rawness on top.

Steven Page — earlier seen as Mozart's Figaro at Garsington — provided another sheet-anchor as the rich Count Asdrubale, seeking to test the love of the women pursuing him, while the rest of the excellent team were largely drawn from promising young American and Italian singers.

Far better-known and more complex, Falstaff provided an even stiffer test, the first Verdi Garsington has tackled. Yet once again the setting proved ideal, with minimal staging devised by "scenographer" Pamela Howard and an unfussy production by Stephen Unwin. Only the final scene in Windsor Forest lacked something in magic, yet even there it was an advantage having the plot so clearly defined.

With the orchestra under Stephen Barlow incorporating the Guildhall Strings, the musical challenge was well taken too. In the title role Robert Poulton may not have a fat-sounding voice, but his incisive delivery and strong stage-presence focused the comedy well, and again it proved an excellent team, including such singers as Elizabeth Gale, Fiona Kimm (a tough Mistress Quickly) and Richard Angas (a lugubrious Pistol). Yet, as so often, first vocal honours went to the singer taking the defiant Ford, Roderick Earle in outstanding form.

OECD confirms gloomy economic forecast

Mark Atkinson, Economics Correspondent

THE gloom descending on the British economy deepened yesterday when the West's leading economic think-tank added its voice to the chorus warning of stagflation — sharply falling growth and rising inflation.

Despite praising the Government's ambitious economic reform programme, which it said could help to eradicate boom and bust in the long run, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said the short-term outlook was distinctly downbeat.

Growth was set to slow "considerably" in the coming months, unemployment would rise but escalating wage increases meant that inflationary pressures were likely to persist, the OECD said.

"Ensuring a smooth landing will be a difficult task," it said in its annual assessment of the British economy.

Without one, the Government's Welfare to Work programme could be scuppered, it warned, since it had the best chance of succeeding in favourable labour market conditions.

Moreover, a sharp downturn would delay the UK's entry to the euro since it would put the economy further out of synch with the recovering European Union economies.

A separate report from a group of British economic forecasters, the Ernst and Young ITEM club, blamed the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the Bank of England for mismanaging the most promising economic scenario for years.

It said Mr Brown's failure to raise taxes significantly in his budgets had allowed consumer spending to get out of control while the strong pound and higher interest rates were hammering manufacturing, leading to a twin-track economy.

"This winter will bring another round of job losses in manufacturing as managers finally get to grips with the reality of their situation," said the ITEM Club. "Fears over job security will bring the consumer to heel next spring."

The OECD welcomed the Government's decision to give operational control of interest rates to the Bank of England, the newly-announced Code for Fiscal Stability — both designed to prevent politicians meddling with the economy for short-term electoral gain — and its programme of supply side reforms, such as the Welfare to Work programme and tax and benefit changes.

"By and large, the new initiatives do not backtrack on the thrust of previous reform efforts, but intend to improve on them and put greater emphasis on fairness," said the OECD.

It added: "It will, of course, be some time before the effects of these policies can be assessed in the light of experience. Overall, they appear to be well-designed to tackle the significant structural problems the UK economy is subject to."

However, the OECD said the new policy framework was already facing its first test, with emerging inflationary pressures but significantly slower economic activity, due to tighter fiscal and monetary policies since the election.

While these had been necessary to prevent overheating, they put a question mark over the economy's ability to avoid a smooth landing.

The OECD's best guess is that growth will slow from more than 3 per cent to last year to less than 2 per cent in both 1998 and 1999.

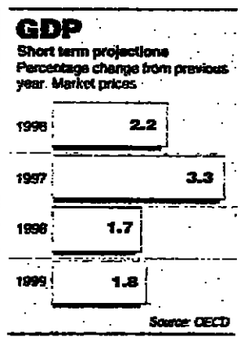
This compares with the Treasury's more optimistic forecast of up to 2.5 per cent this year and 2.25 per cent next year.

ITEM said the current "nightmare scenario" might have been avoided if Mr Brown had increased consumption taxes but the OECD said fiscal fine-tuning would not have brought down the pound.

GDP

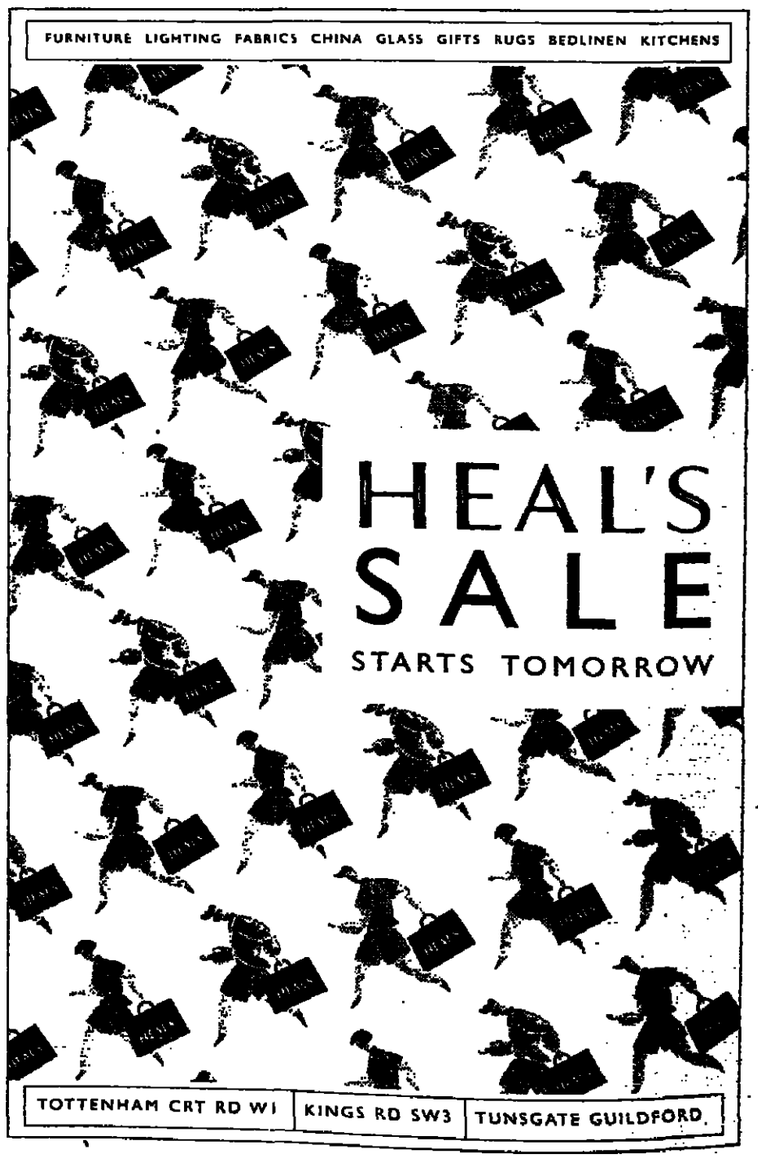
Short term projections

Percentage change from previous year. Market prices



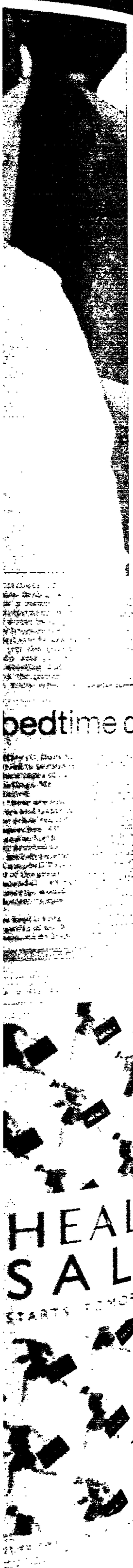
Source: OECD

'Ensuring a smooth landing will be a difficult task'



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Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, being questioned by a select committee. He denied manipulating journalists and briefing against members of the Cabinet

'A lot of the problems suffered by children are caused by their parents' money worries and bickering'

GILLIAN ROBERTS, aged 47: "I can hardly remember my parents being together and I have no recollection of them arguing in front of me. It wasn't as if the household was suddenly split, as far as I can recall, but I may have blotted a lot of it out.

There had been problems with my mum and dad since I was five years old and I stayed with my grandparents on and off during that time.

My parents split up when I was about nine years old and me and my younger brother lived with my dad as my mother had a breakdown and was in hospital.

Then we went to stay with a foster family, but I didn't like it and moved in with my grandparents. My mum came out of hospital when I was 11 and I went to live with her until I left home at 16.

I don't think that divorce, per se, necessarily does a child any harm. If anything, I feel that a lot of the problems suffered by children are caused by their parents' money worries and bickering, rather than the divorce itself.

I don't remember feeling horrible . . . my grandparents were a stable influence.

The person who is the father of my two teenage children was not compatible with me — he was very possessive like my father — but we were together for eight years. I am older and wiser now.

My father committed suicide two years ago."



Gillian Roberts: after her parents split up when she was nine she found a stable influence in her grandparents PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GODWIN

New row as Neill drops Porter

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

LORD NEILL, the barrister appointed by Tony Blair to clean up political corruption, last night pulled out of representing the former Tory Westminster council leader, Dame Shirley Porter, in her fight to overturn a £27 million surcharge for "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering".

His decision followed criticism by Labour MPs for accepting the brief while being paid £500 a day as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

It came as the Commons public administration committee decided to write to Lord Neill demanding an explanation of his dual role and how he could defend it.

Lord Neill said: "While the appeal raises important questions of law, I have advised her that continuing prejudicial comment concerning my representation of her would be damaging to her interests. In the light of a perceived conflict between my two roles, such comment would also be likely to impede the work of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, of which I have the honour to be chairman."

However, Lord Neill's statement caused consternation among MPs when he disclosed that he had already acted for Dame Shirley this year. At the time, he was chairing an inquiry into party funding. He said he had been instructed to advise her in her attempt at the Court of Appeal to overturn a judgment blocking her from going back to the courts. The appeal was successful.

His office said he had advised Dame Shirley on a key point in administrative law. He had not informed fellow members of the committee.

Dame Shirley was found guilty by the district auditor, John Magill, of "wilful misconduct and improper and disgraceful gerrymandering" after a seven-year investigation into the "homes for votes" scandal. She, five other councillors and four officials were found guilty of selective sales of council houses at the expense of the homeless to prevent Labour winning the 1990 council elections.

Last year three High Court judges upheld the findings against her and deputy leader David Weeks, branding her a liar and refusing leave to appeal, a decision overturned by the Court of Appeal.

Peter Bradley, Labour MP for The Wrekin and former deputy leader of the Labour group on Westminster council, welcomed Lord Neill's decision, but said it was a pity he did not do it earlier, when he was advising Dame Shirley on her appeal.

"It is crucial given his position as the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life that he is not only above reproach but is seen to be above reproach."

Labour MP David Winnick, a senior member of the Commons' home affairs committee, said that if he had continued as counsel, "clearly there would have had to be a question mark over his continuing as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life."

The public administration committee is still likely to press for a full explanation from Lord Neill.



Divorce: a child's eye view

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

CHILDREN of divorced or separated parents run twice the risk of suffering problems ranging from poor performance at school to psychiatric disorder in later life, a definitive assessment of all available research today concludes.

But many such problems will stem not from parental separation but from the conflict preceding it, according to experts brought in from Australia and New Zealand to give an impartial verdict on an issue that has split British researchers.

The experts' conclusion is that deeply-unhappy couples should stay together "for the sake of the children" only if they can protect them from the effects of the misery and feuding. Otherwise, separation may be the better option.

"It is especially important that parents appreciate the possible damage from overt conflict and violence and from the involvement of children in their disputes," said Bryan Rodgers, of the Australian National University in Canberra.

The scale of harm to children through divorce and separation has been a hotly-contested academic dispute. Some studies have claimed that children fail at school, turn to crime, suffer ill-health and grow up to repeat their parents' mistakes; others have argued that such effects are greatly overstated and that worse befalls children who stay in acrimonious, intact families.

Mr Rodgers, together with Jan Pryor of the University of Auckland, New Zealand, was commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to review more than 200 British studies on the issue.

The experts conclude that "as a rule of thumb, many adverse outcomes are roughly twice as prevalent among children of divorced families compared with children from other families". These outcomes vary from bed-wetting and aggression to below-par school performance and, in adult life, early parenthood and smoking, drinking and drug misuse.

However, Mr Rodgers and Ms Pryor say that most studies have gone wrong in failing correctly to attribute such outcomes to what children experience during the build-up to separation and divorce, rather than to what they experience at the time.

"Although the differences in outcomes are clear, it cannot be assumed that parental separation is their underlying cause.

"The complexity of factors that impinge on families before, during and after separation indicates a process, rather than a single event, that merits careful examination."

The experts also cast doubt on the widely-held view that it is the absence of a father figure which contributes most to problems among children of separated and divorced parents, pointing out that children whose fathers die do not exhibit as many difficulties but children in step-families do.

Ms Pryor said policy-makers should concentrate on providing support for families facing separation and divorce, rather than believing that much could be done to keep them together.

"In western countries, separation and divorce is here to stay. It's possibly foolish to put too much energy into trying to stop separation."

Janet Lewis, JRF director of research, said she hoped the exhaustive expert assessment would help calm academic rivalry over the issue of children and divorce. More research was needed, though, on what children themselves said and felt.

Maeve Sherlock, director of the National Council for One Parent Families, said the experts' findings "explode the myth that children inevitably fare worse because they live in a one-parent family".

Polly Toynbee, page 8



Denise Bourne: her parents divorced after 25 years of marriage PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

'It has not made life easy for us in terms of maintaining relationships'

DENISE BOURNE, aged 36: "My parents finally divorced around 10 years ago when I was in my mid-20s and it was not a surprise. I had seen it coming for a long time as they had been married for more than 25 years and didn't get on with each other.

I have spoken to my mum about it since then and she told me they only stayed together for so long for the sake of the children — I am the eldest of five.

Dad was a long distance lorry driver and during the week he would be away from home, but when he came home there would always be an atmosphere and rows.

When he wasn't there mum was quite relaxed and natural. I never saw any major fights, but there were quite a few rows. Before he arrived back home, mum would always say to us: 'Oh, dad's coming home.'

The tension has affected us all in different ways. It has not made life easy for us in terms of maintaining relationships. Mum has got quite a few grandchildren, but none of us has bothered to get married.

I am a lone parent with two children and it has affected me in the way I deal with my emotions.

As a teenager I was quite insecure and painfully shy with men. I didn't trust them at all and had no self-confidence because of the way I related to my dad.

We are all a lot closer to our mum than dad and we haven't spoken to him for quite a while."

Interviews: Helen Carter

Fury over new job for watchdog

Headline from Saturday's Guardian

Home Alone star marries

Joanna Coles in New York

MACAULAY CULKIN, the child star who sprang to fame in Home Alone and stayed in the headlines after dyeing his hair green and falling out with his pushy stage parents, has made a bid for adulthood by marrying his girlfriend, Rachel Miner. Both are 17.

The wedding took place in Connecticut at the weekend and was attended by "family," though Mr Culkin's press agent could not confirm whether, signaling a brief reconciliation, the Culkin parents were present.

There was also some mystery as to why the couple, who announced their engagement in March, had chosen Connecticut, where the wedding regulations are the same as in their home state of New York and minors need parental consent to tie the knot under the age of 18.

The couple met at the Professional Children's School in Manhattan, which is attended by children already pursuing careers.

Ms Miner recently starred in a Broadway production of The Diary of Anne Frank which, though it received good reviews, closed after failing to win any Tony awards.

Like her husband, who made his name in Home Alone and Home Alone2, she began work early in life, starting on a daytime soap called Guiding Light, aged nine. She has won awards for best young actress in a daytime show three times.

The couple, who brought the wedding forward from August when they would both have been 18, issued a statement saying: "This is the happiest day of our lives. We're very much in love and couldn't be happier.

"However, because of our busy careers we have no immediate plans for a family."



Macaulay Culkin and Rachel Miner, tying the knot aged 17

MPs demand rethink on plan to restrict vitamin B6 sales

continued from page 1

logist Dr Katharina Dalton which was "scientifically unjustifiable" given the serious criticisms made of it by fellow scientists and the absence of any subsequent research substantiating it.

Nor had there been any cases of vitamin B6 poisoning, despite the widespread publicity about the issue and the huge numbers of people taking it.

MPs said they had been "dismayed by the stubbornness and defensiveness" which COT had displayed in response to scientific questioning of its findings and said that at times the committee had been "curt to the point of rudeness".

Peter Luff, the Conservative MP who chairs the MPs' committee, said: "The committee felt COT had made a very grave error of judgment with no justification for the recommendations to the minister.

"Up to three million people think vitamin B6 helps them and unless it can be shown to do them harm, I think they should be entitled to continue buying it."

Sue Croft, director of Consumers for Health Choice, said: "The report shows quite clearly that the minister was badly advised. COT is the wrong committee to examine nutrients and there is no justification whatsoever for a 10mg limit on B6.

"However, we still need to convince Jeff Rooker [the Agriculture Minister] to withdraw the draft legislation and so far he has seemed to be immune to criticism and pleas from both consumers and the scientific community."

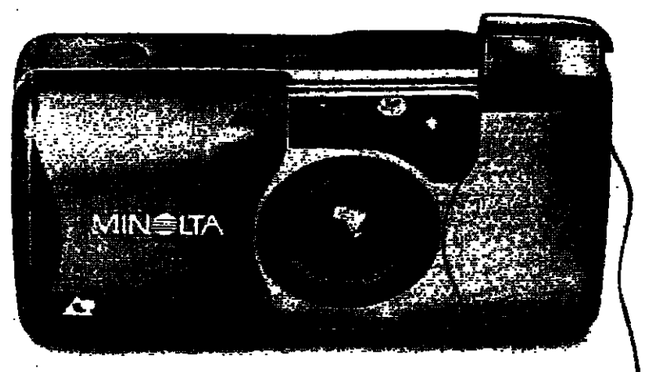
Mr Rooker did not respond to the report's findings yesterday, though he is known to be reluctant to change his mind. The Ministry of Agriculture said it would consider the MPs' report.

Mr Rooker told the Guardian this year: "What I have received is advice — not policy proposals — from independent scientists on two committees and I intend to act.

"The responsibility of this government must be "safety first" over food and drugs — and not to take the cavalier attitude of previous Conservative governments over issues like BSE and do nothing about it."

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Action zones to test new system in which businesses take on bigger role by offering sponsorship and partnering education authorities

Schools to be given radical overhaul

John Carvel
Education Editor

MINISTERS yesterday prepared the way for radical proposals in Labour's next election manifesto to overhaul the organisation of England's schools and give businesses a greater influence over how pupils are taught.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced the first 25 education action zones and said they would be "testbeds for the school system of the next century".

Although the Government is not yet sure which of the zone experiments will prove the most successful, ministers are confident they will provide Tony Blair with models for a Third Way in education, departing from the traditional structure of local authority and independent schools.

"This is the beginning of an entirely new way of delivering the education service. It is about partnership based on success rather than outdated dogma on either side," Mr Blunkett said.

The 25 zones were the winners of a contest among 60 local areas for extra funding worth £1 million per zone per year and opportunities to vary the normal school curriculum and pay and conditions of teachers. To qualify, areas had to attract business sponsorship.

Mr Blunkett said companies backing the successful zones included Blackburn Rovers, Cadbury Schweppes, Nissan, Rolls Royce, Kellogg, British Aerospace, Tate & Lyle, American Express and Brittany Ferries.

In most cases the firms are expected to play a secondary role in zone partnerships led by the local authority, but the zone in the London borough of Lambeth is being led by Shell International and managed by private sector consultants. Education Department sources said the company's controversial activities in Nigeria were not thought to have any bearing on its role in Lambeth, where it was a leading employer.

The zones are clusters of about 20 schools in areas of social disadvantage. Twelve will start in September and another 13 in January. Mr Blunkett said there would be a fresh round of bidding for further zones early next year.

Parents who were dissatisfied with the standard of schools would be able to put in a bid to run a zone with advice from officials at the Department for Education and Employment. There could also be bids from groups of local headteachers similar to the successful submissions from Basildon and Croydon which were awarded zone status yesterday.

Stephen Byers, the schools minister, said the zones would be "a fundamental change to the education status quo and a real threat to those vested interests which have for too long held back our school system."

David Willetts, the shadow education secretary, disputed the Government's claims to radicalism. The zones would be "left in the hands of the very local education authorities that even the Department for Education believes have failed." All but three of the 60 zone bids were led by education authorities.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the zones offered the opportunity for a "quantum leap in education standards". If they took off nationally, they would "become the Trojan horse which could well destroy local education authorities as we know them".

Where new methods will be tested

The first 25 action zones:

Barnsley, Basildon, Birmingham (Aston and Nechells), Birmingham (Kitts Green/Shard End), Blackburn with Darwen, Brighton, Croydon, Halifax, Herefordshire, Hull, North East Lincolnshire, Lambeth, Leicester City, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, Newham, Norfolk, North Somerset, Nottingham, Plymouth, Salford and Trafford (joint bid), Sheffield, Southwark, South Tyneside, Wigan

Heads taking part will have licence to change and experiment

THE 140,000 pupils in the first 25 education action zones will experience a bewildering variety of changes as head teachers, administrators and their business sponsors head off down different tracks in the search for school improvement.

Longer school days

In Birmingham's two zones there will be a 50 per cent increase in school opening hours, with the introduction of homework clubs, Saturday and holiday classes and schemes for "cross-generational learning". In Grimsby there will be a tailor-made TV channel transmitting educational programmes from the schools into the living rooms of all their pupils. In Brighton there will be pre-school nursery provision from 8am to 6pm for 52 weeks of the year.

Super-teachers

About half the zones will employ advanced skills teachers — the new grade being created by the Government to provide financial incentives for the best practitioners to stay in the classroom instead of seeking promotion into managerial jobs.

In Hereford, teams of these super-teachers will work across a group of schools to tackle poor behaviour. In the London borough of Newham, they will be targeted at raising standards of literacy, numeracy and IT.

The zone regulations allow schools to vary teachers' rates of pay and conditions. The Government said 11 schools were considering this to create incentives for teachers to carry out extra duties.

New curriculum

There will be experiments in modifying the national curriculum. In Brighton and Newcastle it will be adapted to prepare 14 to 16-year-olds for work.

In Hereford and Middlesbrough there will be intensive support for pupils as they move from primary to secondary education. Children in Blackburn will see the curriculum extended to promote active citizenship.

It was evident from yesterday's announcement that zone status amounted to a licence to experiment and there would be no single model of what schools must do, or how they should be organised.

Business sponsorship

When the Government invited bids for the zones in January, ministers said they wanted at least one of them to be business-led, sparking fears among teachers and local authority leaders that the scheme would pave the way to privatisation in the education service. Business sponsorship in the first round of zones was extensive, but fell far short of privatisation.

Most of the successful bids were managed by local education authorities. Although the zones are meant to be run by local partnership forums involving businesses, community organisations and parents, education authorities look set to remain in the driving seat in most areas.

Private sector managers

One exception is the London borough of Lambeth where the council will be an equal partner with CfBT, a non-profit education management company which runs inspections for Ofsted and develops schools in the Third World.

The company will appoint a project director to take charge of the day-to-day running of the zone. Neil McIntosh, the chief executive, said he hoped this would "open the door to a new range of accountable service providers".

John Carvel



David Blunkett launching the zones yesterday at the London headquarters of Shell, a leading sponsor PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Library keen to retain free entry

Dan Glaister
Arts Correspondent

THE British Library yesterday denied it had a blueprint to introduce entry charges but said that every aspect of its operation was under review.

The comments came in the wake of speculation that the board of the British Library, whose £520 million new home will be opened by the Queen tomorrow, was going to introduce charges.

But the library, like other national institutions, such as the British Museum and other national galleries, wants to preserve the principle of free admission.

"Our position remains as it always has done on the introduction of charges for the reading rooms," said a spokeswoman for the British Library. "It has to remain on the table at all times, but the board is reluctant to introduce charges. We are realistic, and know, as every arts organisation does, that the financial news is not necessarily going to be good news."

The British Library, which faces higher running costs at its new site, had its government budget cut by £6.4 million to £85 million in the last budget. This followed a £3.3 million cut in its grant for the previous year.

Brian Lang, its chief executive, said: "We cannot afford to run it on that — something has to give. We don't want to start charging but our grant-in-aid is falling and we have been told to expect no increase. So we'll be going to consultation on the prospect of charging readers."

The consultation process follows a similar exercise, started at the beginning of last year, which included suggestions that the British Library's 250-year policy of free admissions be replaced by a £5 entry charge.

In the new building at St Pancras, London, the British Library has reported a surge in reader attendance, with visits up 44 per cent and reader passes up 50 per cent.

The Government, which under the terms of the 1972 British Libraries Act would have the final say over the introduction of charges, suggested there could be good reasons to introduce a charge for certain activities.

Pointing out that £36.15 million of the library's total income of £116 million already comes from receipts — which include some charging for commercial functions — a spokesman for the Department of Culture said: "Should commercial businesses and researchers and authors get this information free? How does one differentiate between a commercial user and one who is not? The use of reading rooms could be considered to be commercial."

The Department of Culture said it would refuse to rule out charges until it had seen British Library proposals.

Leader comment, page 9

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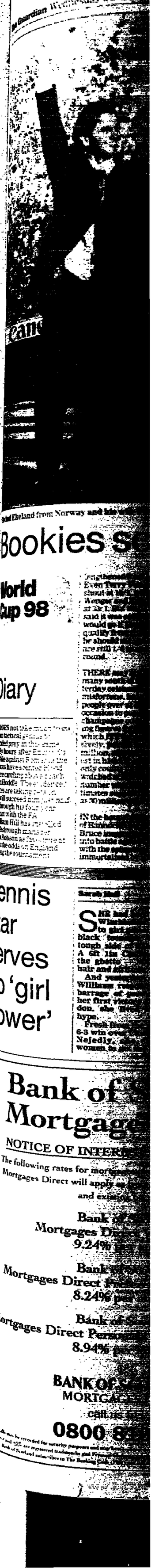
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Olivind Ekeland from Norway and his wife Rose, from Brazil, with their daughter Kristine after their wedding on the pitch before the Brazil-Norway match PHOTOGRAPH: JEROME DELAY

Authority apologises for 'anguish' of abuse

Amelia Gentleman

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE county council has apologised for the first time for the "pain and anguish" caused to adults with learning disabilities by its failure to close down two private nursing homes where vulnerable residents endured a regime of systematic abuse.

The apology came in response to the damning conclusions of an independent inquiry published yesterday, which detailed the "serious mistakes" the council made in its handling of the crisis. Ninety-five recommendations, designed to prevent similar cases of abuse going unchecked, were listed.

The inquiry into why the council did not shut down Longcare Limited's two residential homes for adults with learning disabilities, was launched by the health minister, Paul Boateng, last year after details of a 10-year period of abuse at Stoke Place Mansion and Stoke Green House, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire came to light.

Last year, a former director and two members of staff were convicted for wilful neglect and ill treatment of residents at the homes.

The report concluded that the council's inspection unit had made "serious mistakes" in the way it responded to complaints between 1993 and 1994, and that the "abusive regimes at Longcare should have been exposed and ended earlier".

Inspectors had neglected to make proper records of complaints and failed to investigate serious allegations. The unit had failed to seek help from the health authority, police or other experts.

The Longcare case of 1994 revealed that Gordon Rowe, who ran the homes, had been allowed to preside over a regime of sexual and physical abuse for a decade, even though the authorities had been warned that he had a history of cruel behaviour.

A jury heard that Rowe, his wife and two colleagues ran the homes like army camps, where vulnerable adults were slapped, beaten, dragged by the hair, forced to work in gangs outdoors and denied lavatory paper, toothpaste and soap.

Rowe, who killed himself before he could be charged, was also the subject of a 19-month police inquiry into allegations of physical and sexual abuse at the homes. He would have been charged with a number of counts of rape, indecent assault and ill-treatment, the former superintendent of Thames Valley police leading the investigation, said at the time.

John Beckerleg, the council's director of corporate services, said yesterday: "We recognise the pain and anguish felt by vulnerable people who were abused and very much regret that this has happened. We accept that mistakes were made by the county council's inspection unit. We are deeply sorry for this and apologise to the residents and their families."

The inquiry conceded that the council had recently improved its procedure. "We cannot guarantee there will never be another case of abuse. What we can say is that our inspection unit is now equipped to act effectively," a council spokesman said. The council announced yesterday that the county's director of social services since 1991, Jean Jeffrey, had decided on Monday to take early retirement.

Among its recommendations, the report said good communication and co-ordination between social services and other agencies was crucial if similar instances of abuse were to be avoided. It said staff, relatives and residents should all be encouraged to complain.

The report also recommended that a new criminal offence be created, increasing punishment to a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment for anyone harming a vulnerable adult. This would be the equivalent of the penalty for child neglect.

Bookies scent Hoddle's blood after defeat

World Cup 98

Diary

IT DOES not take much to go from tactical genius to wounded prey in this game. Barely hours after England's stumble against Romania the vultures have scented blood and are circling above coach Glenn Hoddle. The evidence? Bookies are taking bets on who will succeed him just halfway through his four-year contract with the FA.

William Hill has installed Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson as favourite at 1/2, as the odds on England winning the tournament lengthened from 10/1 to 14/1. Even Terry Venables gets a shout at 10/1, with Arsène Wenger and Ruud Gullit both at 33/1. But while William Hill said it was confident Hoddle would go if England failed to qualify from the group stage, he should not panic. His team are still 1/6 to make the next round.

THERE may not have been many south of the border yesterday celebrating England's misfortune, but at least the people over at ITV Sport had occasion to pop at least one champagne cork. Early viewing figures for the game, which ITV carried exclusively, put the audience at 21.6 million, maybe the third highest in history, and the figure only counts those who watched at home. With a huge number watching in pubs, estimates suggest that as many as 30 million tuned in.

IN the hours before the Battle of Bannockburn, Robert the Bruce inspired his Scots army into battle against Edward I with the spine-tingling words immortalised by Burns in Scots Wha Hae (OK, so Burns may have made it up). Exactly 684 years later, Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar attempted to pull off a modern version of the same feat with a good luck message to Craig Brown's squad ahead of their crucial tie with Morocco.

"Everyone in Scotland (and beyond) is very proud of the way you have represented your country at the World Cup," his hand-written note said. "With the magnificent backing of the Tartan Army I am sure you can make history — and the second round! Good luck and all the best."

SPORTS Minister Tony Banks has been getting up people's noses again — on this occasion the notoriously sensitive nasal passages of Scottish MPs. Six of them — five Lib Dem and one Scottish Nationalist — have signed a Commons early day motion berating him for "ill-judged" comments on BBC1's Breakfast With Frost programme, in which he appeared to suggest that Scotland fans in France were only behaving so well to show up the English.

It was left to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to attempt to clear up the confusion, and they did so by citing Mr Banks's notoriously mischievious sense of humour. Apparently he was "actually complimenting the Scottish fans on their behaviour over the years".

TO France, and to alarming news which has reached the diary from the very heart of the French politicial establishment. Just two weeks into the tournament the strains are already beginning to show around Jacques and Bernadette Chirac's dinner table.

The French president's wife has complained about the lack of conversational diversity at meals. "It's soccer, soccer, soccer," Mrs Chirac said in an interview yesterday in the daily Le Parisien.

The crunch came on Sunday night when she returned from a trip abroad to find her husband wanted to watch the US-Iran game while they ate dinner. Well, at least it was a bit political.

Stuart Millar

German thug describes attack on police officer

Denis Staunton in Berlin

A SELFCONFESSED German hooligan described yesterday how three thugs attacked a French policeman, Daniel Nivel, aged 43, in Lens last Sunday, leaving him close to death.

The 17-year-old, who was not named, told the Bild newspaper: "I saw one of us break his weapon in two pieces and then smash the cop over the head with the butt. They all kicked him and beat him. They went at him like animals. Then I got out of there. Somehow I felt sorry for the guy."

"There were 50 of us, the hard core, marching through the city centre, shouting: 'We are Germans. We're scared of nothing. Let's get the cops'."

"Anybody who wasn't German got thumped. There were three cops by themselves. 'Police pigs, we'll get you all,' we shouted. The police yelled back ... then they got scared. Two ran away. The third ... we grabbed him."

One of two Germans held by French police in connection with the attack was identified yesterday as Markus Warneke, aged 27, from Hanover. He is known as a violent hooligan but is not believed to be a member of the far right.

German investigators said yesterday that they had discovered a neo-Nazi Internet website which called on hooligans to create as much trouble as possible in France.

According to Günter A Pilz, a sociologist at Hanover university who studies violence and football, the scenes in Lens on Sunday revealed a new kind of hooligan. "[They] were neither disappointed football fans nor were they drunk like the English. They ... belonged to a group that has caused us ever greater worries in the past two or three years — the extreme right," he said.

Police 'given Lawrence inquiry script'

Ruaridh Nicoll

THE family of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence yesterday accused the Metropolitan police of coaching officers in what evidence to give the inquiry into his death.

The attack comes after a leaked document, entitled "Possible questions you might be asked", fell into the hands of the family's lawyers. Sergeant Peter Solley, a race liaison officer who gave evidence yesterday, claimed he had written the document as a memory aid to himself.

But the document is written in the third person, giving the impression that it came from another source. Questions and answers on possible areas of interrogation are colour-coded red or green, depending on whether information is dangerous or "can be used as it stands or expanded on".

The document advises the officer: "Try not to contradict yourself!"

The Lawrence family campaign said in a statement: "It has become increasingly clear during the course of this inquiry that a culture of protectionism pervades the Metropolitan police.

"Today's extraordinary events suggest that the process is systematic and thorough. The stage management of the police response seems to have reached the point where a police witness was shown to be working to a prepared script."

One question in the eight-page document asks if officers in the area where Stephen was killed by racists in April 1993 had been briefed on local race issues. The document says the officer should: "Give an honest reply. First ask for clarification of this question as it may be a tricky one."

Another question asks when the sergeant first became aware of family liaison officers being appointed to the murder inquiry team and whether the relationship with the family broke down before or after their arrival.

"BE CAREFUL HOW YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION, IT CAN BE A TRICKY ONE!!" the document advises.

Stephen Kamlish, counsel for the Lawrence family, asked Sgt Solley why the document had been written in the third person if it was just an aide-mémoire. "Why doesn't it say 'I'?" he asked.

Sgt Solley said that just happened to be the way he wrote it. "I had it clear in my mind the issues that were raised and the quality of reply needed."

Outside the inquiry, a Metropolitan police spokeswoman said the document did not prove there was a systematic attempt to co-ordinate officers' evidence. "There has been absolutely no coaching of officers by the Metropolitan police."

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, expressed their "outrage and disappointment" at a letter Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan arm of the Police Federation, wrote to the Police Review complaining that the inquiry was unfairly portraying the police as racist and incompetent.

They said the remarks showed that the apology they received from the force last week was not endorsed by most officers. "It shows that the police do not really care about what has come out of the inquiry so far and are not prepared to change," they said in a statement.

Tennis star serves up 'girl power'

Sarah Hall

SHE had been touted as Wimbledon's answer to girl power. A feisty black teenager from the tough side of Los Angeles. A 6ft 1in Cinderella from the ghetto — with beaded hair and attitude.

And yesterday, as Venus Williams responded to the barrage of publicity after her first victory at Wimbledon, she lived up to the hype.

Fresh from the speedy 6-3 6-3 win over Canada's Jana Nejedly, she called for women to get the same pay as men in Grand Slam tournaments. And she rallied her sisters to arms.

Referring to the disparity between the £435,000 men's prize and the £391,500 women's, the number seven seed said: "On the Grand Slams I think there should be equal pay, and I think the ladies should do something about it, instead of just playing and feeling comfortable and relaxed with it and just accepting it for years to come."

The world No 6 player — who will bear much of the brunt of media excitement following Monday's departures of the highly photogenic Anna Kournikova and Mary Pierce, said the higher profile of women tennis players this year was good for the sport. But she attributed this not to looks but to personality.

In a riposte which would have done the Spice Girls proud, she said: "I think that there's a lot of personalities on the ladies' tour at this moment in time. I think we always do what we're going to do." This outspokenness had given the women "a little more attention than we deserve".

Williams — who blazed into the public eye by reaching the final of the US Open at her first attempt last year — was equally dismissive of criticism that women players were just preoccupied with their looks.



Venus Williams: 'There should be equal pay'

Missing schoolgirl's body found in river

David Ward

THE body of a 13-year-old Cheshire schoolgirl who disappeared six days ago was found yesterday in a river close to her usual route to school.

Claire Hart had been missing since Thursday, after setting off to walk two miles from her home in the village of Eaton to the Dane Valley school in Congleton.

A witness spotted her talking to a young man with an air rifle over his shoulder.

Police said the body was found some distance from a weir in the shallow waters of the river Dane.

Her adoptive parents, Robin Hart, a landscape gardener, and Katherine, and sister Michelle, 11, were said to be "very distraught". The body was taken to a hospital in Macclesfield for a post mortem. The results will be released later, police said.

The body was found by a police search team while moving along the river bank at the bottom of Havannah Lane, which leaves the main road at a point where Claire would normally have climbed over a gate to take a short-cut through woods and across fields.

The area was sealed off and specialist teams were called in to recover the body and conduct a search on both banks of the river. Divers, mountain rescue teams, and dog handlers had joined in the search as its radius extended from its original two-mile limit.

Until the discovery of the body the only clue in the search for Claire was the finding of her Marks & Spencer coat on the river bank on Sunday.

On Monday Craig Smith, aged 19, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody by magistrates in Macclesfield after being charged with abducting Claire.

Neighbours said Claire used to be a member of the local Brownies and was often seen around the village, which has fewer than 300 residents, playing on roller blades or in ball games with other children. They said she and her sister, Michelle, 11, were both adopted and moved to the village four years ago.

A near neighbour and Eaton parish councillor, Roy Waltho, described Claire as "a lovely, cheerful" girl.



Claire Hart ... Cheshire schoolgirl found dead

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For the modern woman seeking a truly modern romance, gay is the new black.
Libby Brooks
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Widow weeps over fatal crash

David Beresford in Johannesburg

NELSON Mandela's companion Graca Machel wept in front of South Africa's truth commission yesterday as she told how her husband, President Samora Machel of Mozambique, died in a suspicious air crash on South African territory.

The hearing was held behind closed doors, but Mrs Machel is believed to have told the commission that her husband had told her shortly before the crash in 1986 that he feared he was about to be assassinated.

She is believed to have expressed shock that parts of the aircraft were sold or given away as souvenirs. The tail, complete with the Mozambique coat of arms, ended up in a South African pub.

The cause of the crash has been hotly debated and conspiracy theories floated — including a claim in the Mozambique press that the president survived the crash only to be injected with poison by a mysterious doctor.

The central question is why the Tupolev-134 made a fatal turn on its approach to Maputo which carried it into a South African hillside.

The most popular theory among those who believe that the flight was sabotaged by South Africa is that a false radio beacon lured the aircraft on to its fatal bearing.

But there was an undisputed series of pilot errors, including the crew's failure to react to a ground-proximity alarm, which could not have been planned by saboteurs.

The commission is believed to have been given evidence suggesting that a false beacon was used but the crash was unintended: the intention was to bring the aircraft over South African territory where a special forces unit waited to shoot it down.

The motive was thought to be intelligence that President Machel planned to attack Malawi because its then leader, the late Hastings Banda, had allowed the Mozambique rebel movement Renamo to establish bases on its territory.



Graca Machel at the truth commission yesterday



Cyclists in the crowded streets of developing countries, like these in Varanasi, India, are most at risk from accidents with motor vehicles, which cost 500,000 lives and 15 million injuries a year, says the Red Cross's new report on World Disasters. PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN PARKER

Road accidents set to be world's biggest killer

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

ROAD crashes, which already claim 500,000 lives a year and cause 15 million injuries, will overtake tuberculosis, war and HIV as one of the world's biggest killers by 2020, says the Red Cross.

The extraordinary increase in death on roads crowded with pedestrians and animals in the developing world is documented in its World Disasters Report.

In developed countries, road safety campaigns, driver training, better vehicle care, seat belt legislation and traffic management measures have been reducing crash deaths for 30 years, despite rising vehicle numbers.

But the opposite has happened in the developing world where 70 per cent of road deaths now occur, even though it has far fewer vehicles. Most of the victims are pedestrians and cyclists who have never been in a car.

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for men and the fifth most frequent for woman in the 15-44 age band. Children under 15 account for 15 per cent of traffic fatalities in developing countries compared with 6 per cent in the developed.

Even in rich countries the poor are the more likely to die in accidents. For example, far more residents of Edinburgh's poorest areas, where 70 per cent have no car, are likely to be injured or killed than in the richest neighbourhoods, where almost nine out of 10 families have a car.

Only clinical depression and heart disease will kill more people than traffic accidents in 20 years, the report says. Ethiopia has by far the worst record: 175 road deaths for every 10,000 licensed vehicles, compared with the second country, Nepal, with 80. By comparison Australia and Japan have two deaths per 10,000 vehicles.

The report argues that the economic cost of road deaths places a severe and needless strain on national resources.

Crashes already cost underdeveloped countries as much as the aid they receive. The average costs of accidents in most countries is now at least one per cent of the gross domestic product.

Traffic accidents damage progress by killing the economically active, seek out the most vulnerable, and are forecast to do more harm through death and disability than many of the health threats currently given greater priority for assistance.

The Red Cross suggests as a first step that national road safety councils are established in each country to examine the problem.

G2 pages 12-13

Aid focus shifting from country to shanty towns

OTHER main points from the World Disaster Report

□ The focus of disaster relief will shift over the next few years from vast rural areas like the Sudan to the developing world's ever-growing number of overcrowded shanty towns. Poor people crammed into high-risk places are increasingly vulnerable to diseases, earthquakes and floods.

□ Effective and accountable government is the best way of reducing the death toll from natural and man-made disasters in big cities.

□ When disaster strikes the rich, who need help least, often get it first. The response to the 1997 Acapulco hurricane concentrated on the tourist area, rather than on the workers' hillside settlements, ravaged by floods and mudslides.

□ After the physical damage is repaired, long-term psychological damage remains. Looking after the mental health of victims and dealing with feelings of grief and loss is a new field for the Red Cross.

□ In Cali, Columbia, local disaster mitigation workers have been trained to work with people in illegal settlements to map hazardous areas and limit further building in them.

□ Rapidly developed settlements need instant engineering skills and resourcefulness. Lugufu, a Congolese refugee camp, which appeared overnight needed water for a population of 35,000 people. It was pumped 500ft up a cliff from a river, chlorinated, then piped nearly a mile to the camp to provide a ration of 30 pints a person a day. Even so 16,000 cases of cholera were reported in September 1997.

□ For cash-strapped aid agencies, whose income has fallen 17 per cent from its peak in 1992, the urban poor at least offer value for money. Since they are living at high density, usually on the edge of a big city, more can be helped for less money than in rural communities.

News in brief

Italian deputies back Nato enlargement

HEEDING a last-minute appeal from the prime minister, Romano Prodi, Italian deputies put aside their differences yesterday and endorsed Nato's eastward expansion, sparing the government an embarrassing defeat.

All three articles of the ratification bill were passed by a wide margin, after the conservative opposition led by the media mogul Silvio Berlusconi abstained. The final vote on the entire package was expected to be carried by a similar margin. A small centre party backed the ratification of Nato's three newest members after meeting Mr Prodi.

The senate has already approved the ratification, which is required from all 16 Nato members and the three new countries for enlargement to take effect. — *AP, Rome.*

German agent charged

A GERMAN security agent who was arrested in April for attempting to spy on the Church of Scientology in Switzerland has been formally charged, the Basle state prosecutor's office said yesterday. The agent, who was not identified, is charged with carrying out "illegal business for a foreign state", working for a political information service and falsifying identification documents.

The agent — employed by of the Baden-Württemberg branch of Germany's domestic security agency, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution — was arrested as he was leaving a restaurant in Basle where he met two Swiss women, one of whom was also charged yesterday.

The other woman, the Socialist MP Susanne Haller, alerted the police to the meeting and is not under investigation. — *AP, Basle.*

Moscow clean-up bill rises

THE estimated cost of cleaning up after a freak storm in Moscow at the weekend increased 10-fold, to £103 million, city officials said. The death toll was lowered from nine to eight.

Up to 80,000 trees and 462 billboards were destroyed in the storm on Saturday night, according to Boris Nikolsky, an aide to Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov. He said 50 miles of power lines were brought down. — *AP, Moscow.*

Hutu bus attack kills 18

HUTU rebels killed 18 people and wounded 40 in an attack on a bus in western Rwanda, the independent Rwanda News Agency said yesterday. The bus, packed with nearly 100 passengers, was attacked on Monday afternoon in Nyange, 70 miles west of the capital Kigali. State-run Radio Rwanda said three children were believed to be among the dead and at least four children were wounded.

In March last year Hutu rebels killed four students in Nyange and wounded 17 when they refused to separate according to whether they were Tutsi or Hutu. — *AP, Nairobi.*

Dockers support peace deal

DOCK workers in Melbourne voted yesterday in favour of a peace deal that may end a protracted battle for control of Australia's waterfront. At a five-hour meeting, about 400 dock workers voted to accept a framework agreement reached between the country's maritime union and Patrick Stevedores Holdings.

Talks began after the federal court ruled in April that Patrick must rehire 1,400 unionised workers it had fired in an attempt to break union control of hiring on the waterfront. The firings triggered violent confrontations at the country's docks and a national strike.

The union said the new agreement would cost about 400 members' jobs. — *AP, Melbourne.*

Long haul for pilots

MORE airline pilots are falling asleep on the job because of improved cockpit technology and increased demand for flights, according to a Nasa study. Pilots endured long flights at cruising altitudes when little was required of them, said David Neri, who led the project. — *AP, San Francisco.*

Footprints make tracks

THE oldest set of human footprints known have been removed from their site in South Africa and flown by helicopter to a conservation workshop, because visitors put their survival at risk.

The 117,000-year-old tiny female prints, dubbed "Eve's Footprints", lay undiscovered on the shores of Langebaan Lagoon about 75 miles north of Cape Town, until 1995.

Since their discovery visitors have scratched their names near the prints and placed their feet in them. Set in crumbly sandstone, they are also vulnerable to erosion.

"If human beings don't get the footprints, nature will," said geologist Dave Roberts who discovered them.

After a brief stop at an engineering workshop for more conservation work, the prints will be moved to the South African Museum in Cape Town later this week. — *AP, Langebaan.*

Disaster feared in Bissau exodus

Alex Duval Smith, the first Western journalist into Casamance in Senegal, finds that refugees fleeing one civil war are stumbling into another

A QUARTER of a million West Africans fleeing on foot from fighting in Guinea-Bissau without food or water are heading north into another civil war where they face landmines, hostile Senegalese troops and swamps.

As this human emergency advances on Casamance — the region of Senegal where a 16-year independence conflict has turned into a guerrilla war — international aid agencies are unable to intervene.

Sixteen days after a rebellion in one of Africa's smallest countries, the Guinea-Bissauan refugees have been forced by the rainy season to flee towards Casamance.

They are now caught just inside their own country, between shelling in the south and landmines in the north.

An envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Casamance's capital, Ziguinchor, puts their number at up to 300,000 — a figure based on the population of their capital, Bissau, which is now virtually empty.

Signs of the unfolding emergency can be seen on the Senegalese border close to Guinea-Bissau.

Youtou, a village of 800 people near the border, can only be reached by a three-hour canoe ride through mangroves and rice paddles, thanks to landmines laid by Casamance rebels.

In common with most people here, Alpha Diédou has relatives in Guinea-Bissau and, at this time of year, they would normally be planting rice together in paddies.

"We hear the landmines going off just a few hundred metres away. Of course, we do not know if they are being activated by animals or people, because the mines mean we cannot leave the village any more," said Mr Diédou.

"Every night the drummer in Suzana, where our brothers live just across the border, plays so we know he is OK."

Curfew in Youtou, which does not have electricity generators, is made up of darkness and bush sounds — crickets and hyenas. But the thud of cannons from Bissau and occasional flashes of light provide reminders that thousands of "brothers" are stranded there.

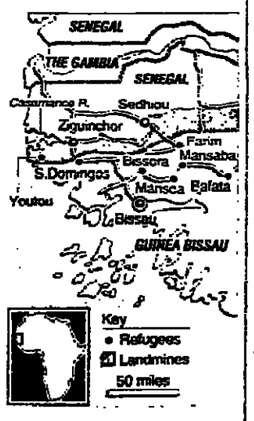
The Senegalese army is here: jittery soldiers with automatic weapons crouched in bunkers and behind sandbags and ready to fire at the slightest sound, even a ripe mango falling from a tree.

The garrison was posted here last year, officially to protect Youtou from the Casamance rebels — jungle fighters who are said to fund themselves through extortion and growing cannabis.

Allegations by Guinea-Bissau's government that its military chiefs were selling weapons and landmines to the Casamance rebels sparked the rebellion in Bissau on June 7.

President Abdou Diouf of Senegal immediately sent 1,300 troops — since then reinforced — to quell the rebellion led by Ansumane Mane against President Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira. He may also have hoped to disrupt Casamance rebel bases in Guinea-Bissau.

Casamance, known as the breadbasket of Senegal, was given to France by Portugal after the Congress of Berlin in



1886. The highly fertile area, where Club Mediterranée has a luxury development, is isolated from the rest of Senegal by Gambia.

Although both the Senegalese government and the Casamance rebels claim the 16-year conflict is centred on the rights of the Diala tribe, they are only one of many ethnic groups in the region.

The rebels began their fight in 1982 over the rights to oil exploration. In the event, only small amounts of oil were found.

When he ordered troops into Guinea-Bissau, Mr Diouf said that the operation would last just 48 hours. But more than two weeks later it is continuing, amid reports that most if not all of the former Portuguese colony's army is fighting with Mr Mane's forces and that Casamance rebels are providing support.

It is clear where Youtou's elderly chief, Souley Diata, stands. He wears a white cap marked "vote Diouf" and does not want any refugees in his village. He greets visitors with the customary *"kasumai, kasumai keup"* (peace, nothing but peace).

He said: "The Senegalese soldiers will not let the refugees in. They are Casamance rebels pretending to be refugees. The rebels burnt down our village in 1995 because we would not support them, so there is no way they are coming back."

Amnesty International has tried for to raise awareness of the Casamance conflict. An Amnesty report earlier this year denounced widespread torture tactics by the Senegalese army and intimidation by the rebels.

It said that both the military and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC) had opted to "terrorise the civilian population" after failing to find a military solution.

Youtou is one of hundreds of villages which have been attacked, burnt or, more recently, circled with landmines, by rebels apparently extorting money. Last month, in advance of the Senegalese elections, supporters of Mr Diouf's Socialist Party were attacked and others threatened to stop them voting.

According to Amnesty, the Senegalese army has tortured hundreds of men, women and even children, using such means as setting fire to their genitals, electric shocks, burning plastic or cigarettes on their bodies, or forcing them to ingest petrol and other detainees' blood and faeces. The report listed 52 people known to have "disappeared" in the five years leading up to last September.

The Casamance conflict has worsened since November when landmines, apparently planted by the rebels and said to be available from dealers here for around 50p each, began exploding. At least 90 people have died in Casamance — 12 of them in Youtou — since last November.

There is, as yet, no evidence that the Senegalese army is turning back Guinea-Bissauan refugees reaching Casamance. But neither has the UNHCR managed to set up a humanitarian corridor.

After 3,000 foreigners left Bissau by ship at the start of the conflict, only 800 Guinea-Bissauans were evacuated by the same means to Senegal's capital, Dakar. The rest, in a country of some 3 million, have taken to the roads on foot. About 360 refugees have made it into Casamance.

According to an aid worker for the Portuguese charity, Assistencia Médica Internacional, who got into Guinea-Bissau from eastern Cassamance last week, thousands of refugees have congregated in Bafata, Mansoa, Bissora and San Domingos.

But in the absence of an international effort, there is no infrastructure to keep them alive.



A Guinea-Bissau refugee carries his sister into Senegal after walking miles from their village. Around 300,000 people are escaping fighting which followed an army rebellion in the former Portuguese colony PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

صكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

UN team in Iraq finds nerve gas

Martin Kettle in Washington and Ian Black in London

THE prospects for an early end to sanctions against Iraq suffered a serious setback yesterday with a report that United Nations weapons inspectors have found traces of highly deadly — and still usable — VX nerve gas in destroyed missile warheads.

The discovery, due to be reported to the UN Security Council today by Richard Butler, head of the Unscom inspectorate, contradicts Iraq's claim that it was unable to produce a weapon using the toxic nerve gas, and provoked an immediate American warning against relaxing sanctions.

British officials said the discovery proved again that not only had Iraq repeatedly lied, it could still have the weapons.

"If they have VX loaded into shells or warheads, it could still be usable even after all this time," a well-placed source said. "If they have it buried in the desert they can dig it up and use it against anyone they like."

The evidence, leaked to the Washington Post, is contained in a United States army laboratory analysis of warhead fragments recovered by Unscom in March. The warheads dated from the 1991 Gulf war and were found to contain significant amounts of VX, a few drops of which can kill a human being within minutes. Iraq dismissed the report as "an outrageous lie".

The key discovery is the presence of a stabilising agent which prolongs the shelf life of chemical agents. "This is a major blow to Iraqi concealment efforts," an official said. "It shows Saddam's chemical warfare programme was far more advanced than they admits. They have been caught red-handed."

In Baghdad, the deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, denied the claim in a letter to the Security Council. He said Iraq had experimented with VX and had produced 1.7 tons of it but had not been able to make it into a weapon.

Iraqi officials denied the existence of a VX programme when they met Mr Butler in Baghdad last week, but the discovery were being taken in Washington and London as further proof that Iraq lied and is continuing to lie about its weapons programmes.

Unscom has to issue a clean bill of health before the sanctions can be lifted.

President Clinton responded by calling on the UN to continue inspections and keep sanctions fully in place. Iraq, with French and Russian support, is hoping to persuade the Security Council to scale down the Unscom operation and lift sanctions by the end of the year.

"If this report is true, it will just show that our insistence over these last many years on the UN inspection system is the right thing for the safety of America and the safety of the rest of the world," he said.

"We'll stay with the position we've always had: let the inspections go forward and don't lift the sanctions until the resolutions are complied with."

The circumstances of the leak prompted the fear in the White House and at the UN that the international impact of the discovery could be diminished, thus reducing the pressure on France, Russia and China to support the tougher American and British response. Republican opponents believe the White House is insufficiently committed to the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

The missile fragments were analysed at the US army laboratory in Aberdeen, Maryland, which is one of the few laboratories in the world approved by the UN for testing toxic agents.

British officials said Iraq, backed by Russia, had tried to prevent Unscom from sending the samples abroad.

The Washington Post said it obtained a copy of the analysis of the fragments through the Iraqi National Congress, the main opposition group to President Saddam.

But there was speculation that the report was leaked by hard-line US military advisers in Unscom, who want a more confrontational stance towards Iraq.

"This is a smoking gun," said Ahmed Chalabi, president of the INC. "It shows that Saddam is still lying, and that this whole arrangement based on his turning his weapons of terror over to the United Nations is not workable."

The leak prompted an angry reaction from Mr Butler, who said: "I don't know where it came from and I'm really sorry that someone thought it would serve some good purpose to put this into the public arena."



A long queue of Chinese wait outside the US embassy in Beijing to apply for visas yesterday, two days before President Clinton arrives in China PHOTOGRAPH: GREG BAKER

Voices that smoothed Clinton's way to China

John Gittings in Beijing reports on how the prophets of conflict were drowned out by liberals preaching the benefits of détente

A VIGOROUS campaign by scholars and advisers in China and the United States to improve relations between the two countries lies behind Bill Clinton's visit. The proponents of détente have had to contend with considerable hostility, from both Chinese hardliners and a wide range of American critics. Their clinching argument has been about the future: what will the world be like in the 21st century if the two countries are at odds?

A central figure in Beijing is Liu Ji, vice-president of the influential Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and a behind-the-scenes adviser to President Jiang Zemin. It was Mr Jiang's visit to the US last autumn that set the scene for Mr Clinton's return trip.

US think-tanks have also produced a strong lobby in favour of boosting relations. The leading exponents include former diplomats, China scholars, strategic experts and business leaders.

The groups in both countries were perturbed by the crisis in relations that led to sabre-rattling in the Taiwan straits two years ago, and a spate of alarmist forecasts in Beijing and Washington.

Mr Liu has openly criticised Chinese extremists who talk of China's "4,000 years of history" and accuse foreign countries of seeking to undermine its national greatness.

In a well-timed lecture at Harvard University last year, he insisted that China and the US had "no fundamental conflict of interests".

The main strategic interest of the US, he argued, was to become "number-one power in the next century". Far from deploring this, he regarded it as complementary to China's main aim — to build itself into "an affluent, strong, democratic and civil socialist society".

The US needed China's markets to underpin its technological superiority in the world: China needed US technology to help it modernise. This, he concluded, "is where the two countries' fundamental strategic interests lie".

On the other side of the Pacific, the American Assembly, a foundation set up in the 1950s by President Eisenhower, launched a project in 1995 to clarify policy on US-China relations. If there was no consensus on how to handle Beijing, it argued, the US might find itself in "a new and destructive cold war".

An assembly delegation visited Beijing to meet Mr Jiang and other top officials. Backers of the two-year project included businesses with keen commercial interest in China such as Boeing, General Motors and AT&T.

The project culminated in a heavyweight conference in upstate New York 18 months ago, which is now credited with having had a powerful influence on the Clinton administration. It presented starkly alternative scenarios.

In one, a US-China partnership led to booming US exports and liberalisation of the Chinese political system; in the other, US and Chinese warships confronted each other in the Pacific while political repression in China intensified.

The report concluded that the US should abandon "futile illusions that it can somehow keep China weak", and develop a new co-operative relationship.

This turn-around in liberal thinking in China and the US was driven by concern at the extremist arguments being aired on both sides. A popular chauvinist tract published in Beijing in 1996 under the title China Can Say No argued that China must stand firm to save the world from US domination. One chapter was provocatively titled Burn Down Hollywood. Washington was accused of orchestrating anti-China media campaigns.

A book published in the US soon afterwards by two former Beijing correspondents, The Coming Conflict with China, warned: "China is an unsatisfied and ambitious power whose goal is to dominate Asia." It urged that the US military presence in Asia should be bolstered to become "vastly more powerful and effective than China's military".

Morton Abramowitz, a former US ambassador and Asia expert, countered last year with a pamphlet in which he insisted: "There is no basis for hostility towards or conflict with China."

Official commentators in Beijing have praised these "far-sighted" arguments, pointing out that they have much in common with similar Chinese views.

The co-operation lobbies have developed informal links in recent years through academic and think-tank exchanges. They are challenged in the US by a wide spread of critics, from the human rights lobby to Republican conservatives. Intellectual opposition in China is more muffled, but liberals warn that hardline ideologues still have the support of some Communist Party leaders.

If the Clinton visit fails to justify expectations, then the dominant mood could turn sour again very quickly, and the prophets of conflict will soon take up their pens.

Time admits doubt about its sarin report

Joanna Coles in New York

AMERICAN journalism — still reeling from a series of recent high-profile resignations after reporters admitted making stories up — took another battering yesterday when Time magazine published a letter from the managing editor announcing that he was investigating the accuracy of a recent story accusing American forces of dropping a deadly nerve gas during the Vietnam war.

The story was produced in conjunction with CNN and featured one of the channel's top reporters, Peter Arnett. But the rival magazine Newsweek claimed that it was untrue and quoted some of the same soldiers used in Time, who appeared to contradict the story.

The Pentagon promptly announced that it was looking into the story and Perry Smith, a military analyst for CNN, resigned, saying that the report was "sleazy journalism".

Yesterday Time's managing editor, Walter Isaacson, told readers: "We believed that the initial CNN report and article were based on substantial evidence. But we feel the doubts raised deserve full exploration. So we plan to keep reporting this story."

He added that when the magazine got more facts, "We will report them to you, correct any mistakes and try to clarify any disputes that remain".

The report claimed that US forces dropped sarin gas on villages in Laos during an operation called Tailwind, aimed at flushing out and killing American soldiers who had deserted.

It quoted Thomas Moorer, the then chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, as confirming the use of the gas. But after watching the report, Admiral Moorer said he had only heard rumours about its use and not seen any confirmed evidence.

Gonzalez tells court he knew nothing of dirty war with ETA

Adela Gooch in Madrid

THE former Socialist prime minister of Spain Felipe González said under oath yesterday that when in power he did not authorise the dirty war against the Basque separatist group ETA, and that he knew nothing about it.

"It would never occur to me to do such a thing ... if you are referring to illegal action," he said during more than three hours of questioning in court.

Mr González has always professed his innocence, but it is the first time he has denied under oath being involved in the dirty war, which played a key part in his election defeat two years ago.

He was appearing as a witness in the trial of one of his former interior ministers and 11 former senior officials and policemen charged in connection with a bungled kidnapping in 1983. It was the first action claimed by the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL), which killed 28 people between 1983 and 1987, many of them unconnected to ETA.

Last year the supreme court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute Mr González but that he should be called as a witness.

The trial has put the spotlight on him at a time when he is being tipped as the frontrunner to succeed Jacques Santer as president of the European Commission in 2000. Any suspicion that he was involved with GAL could jeopardise his chances.

Mr González, who was cheered as he entered the court and booed as he left, rejected the claim made by two of the defendants that he had been told of the 1983 kidnapping of Segundo Marey, an office furniture dealer of Spanish origin. Mr Marey was seized from his home in the French Basque country by four men who mistook him for a known ETA member. He was released after four days.

Mr González defended his former interior minister José Barrionuevo against the allegation that he orchestrated the kidnapping. "It has never occurred to him to propose such action to me and I don't think it ever crossed his mind," he said.

Polls indicate that most Spaniards believe that Mr González was politically responsible for GAL and that Mr Barrionuevo was its organiser. But they do not think the ex-minister should be jailed.

GAL operated at a time when ETA claimed up to 80 victims in one year. The aspect that troubles Spaniards most is the suggestion of financial corruption arising from the misuse of funds meant to fight terrorism.

The present conservative government has also been tainted by the case through its exploitation of the allegations to hound Mr González from office. On Monday the deputy prime minister Francisco Alvarez Cascos admitted that in 1994 he met lawyers for two policemen involved in GAL but he denied offering their clients a pardon if they agreed to incriminate members of the then Socialist government.

The trial, the first relating to GAL to involve the highest echelons of power, has been dominated by political pressures. Mr Barrionuevo even said he would "confess to falsehoods" to avoid damaging state security.



Felipe González leaving court in Madrid yesterday

There is speculation that the charges will be dropped because the crimes took place too long ago for the defendants to receive a fair trial.

Meanwhile, ETA announced that it had ended its suspension of attacks on the Basque police, introduced in November.

EU to restore £360m for 'good works'

Martin Walker in Brussels

BRITAIN agreed a crash programme with European Commission and Parliament officials yesterday to restore full legal authority for the European Union's suspended budget of £360 million for "good works", under pressure from more than 200 demonstrators from women's groups, the disabled and development aid organisations.

"We trust you are aware of the political damage you have done," the alliance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) told the British and EU officials.

"This crisis is having a profound impact on NGOs in the social policy, development and human rights field."

The Treasury Secretary Helen Liddell, representing the British presidency, the EU budget commissioner Erkki Liikananen, and the leaders of the parliament's budget committee faced a gauntlet of disabled demonstrators in wheelchairs, protests in sign language from the association for the Belgian Deaf, and leaders of NGOs whom the EU routinely entrusts with hundreds of millions of pounds in development aid.

"There is no criticism of the content of the spending and we are very mindful of the good work carried out," Ms Liddell told a delegation from the demonstrators, and promised to resolve the NGOs' budget crisis as soon as possible.

"But we were concerned that the commission should not be able to spend European taxpayers' money without legal approval by national governments," she added.

The budget crisis began with a British victory in the European Court, initially brought by John Major's government. The suit claimed that for the past 20 years the commission had been spending much of its social and development budget without proper legal authority.

The commission reacted, some NGOs say over-reacted, by suspending huge amounts of the social budget, pending a legal review.

The Guardian's report on the scale of the threat provoked Tony Blair to assure the European Parliament last week that the problem would be resolved.

The meeting yesterday between the council, commission and parliament agreed to make a full legal assessment of all the dubious items on the budget by the July 17 council meeting, and to restore those at risk.

But the complexities of EU legislation, which has to be approved by each of the three institutions, mean that many of this year's projects cannot be funded legally before next year.

"Our immediate concern is this year's budget. We have hired staff and premises for current projects, and suddenly find there is no money for them," Gianpiero Alhadeff of Solidar, the trade union-backed aid and social welfare agency, told Ms Liddell.

Like many other NGOs, he also complained of "poor management and a lack of open government" by the commission, whose officials had not met the alarmed NGOs since the crisis first came to light.

By coincidence, leaders of hundreds of Europe's NGOs and social welfare agencies will be in Brussels tomorrow for the EU's Social Policy Forum, where they intend to leave their speaker, the commission president Jacques Santer, in no doubt of the urgency of the crisis.

Town's fish is battered by civil rights group

Mark Tran in New York

A LITTLE fish is making a big splash in Republic, a small railway town in Missouri. It appears on the town logo and has been attacked by the American Civil Liberties Union as violating the constitutional separation of church and state.

In February, the ACLU wrote to the mayor of Republic (population 8,000, 25 churches) asking him to drop the fish from the logo because it was "unmistakably identified with Christianity".

According to the ACLU, the fish symbol first appeared in the second century as a secret sign of Christianity. The Greek word ichthus (fish) has the initial letters of Iesous CHristos THeou Uios Soter (Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour).

The fish became the pivotal issue in Republic's mayoral election in April. Douglas Boatwright was re-elected after declaring that he "would like to draw a line in the sand and say this is it. I will not change the logo".

The fish began cropping up all over town — on a banner on the side of Calvary Baptist Church, on pavements, saying, "Save Me", and as a sculpture on the main road while manicurists painted fish on customers' fingernails.

Several citizens have formed a committee to defend the logo in preparation for an ACLU lawsuit. So far it has raised $10,000 and the volunteer lawyers are drawing upon research



showing that the symbol predates Christianity.

"We feel that if we can prove it's not just a Christian symbol, we stand a very good chance of not having it removed, because it's showing faith in general," Paula Howell told the New York Times.

Nobody knows who complained to the ACLU, but feelings are running high.

"There's a real climate of fear in Republic right now and some of these people who initially spoke up do not want to be named publicly," said Gay Revi, an ACLU volunteer in Springfield, the nearest city.

ACLU lawyers are talking to several potential plaintiffs about whose name should go on the lawsuit. One withdrew because he was afraid of losing his job.

Jean Webb, a practising witch who has lived in Republic for three years with her daughter and sick husband, says she was quite comfortable until the fish flap.

Now, she said: "It's gotten ugly. As soon as my husband passes on we're moving."

The logo won Marilyn Shexsnayder $100 in a design contest eight years ago.

She drew an oval encompassing Missouri, an outstretched hand, a family of four in silhouette, and a fish as a "symbol that would represent religion totally, all religion".

n deputies back enlargement

n agent charged

w clean-up bill rises

us attack kills 18

rs support peace deal

ual for pilots

nts make tracks



Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

IN line with New Labour's rebranding of Britain, chief whip Nick Brown has been consulting his 15 whips over the possibility of an alternative title. "Whip" is unsuitable, according to a Brown aide, "because of its connotations." One whip said: "The name is a relic of a bygone age and nobody knows what to do." Fear not, the Diary is full of ideas. We have already begun the consultation process, and while the initial results are not encouraging, we remain optimistic. Sadly, David Hill, ex-chief media-spokesman for the Labour Party, now working for Lord Bell's PR company, said: "I could think of some ideas were I minded to do so, but I have other things to do with my time." Lord Bell himself declines to return our calls. In fact, the only ideas so far come from Diary hero Andrew Mackinlay, the free-thinking MP for Thurrock, who (rather unhelpfully) suggests "Bow Street runners" or "Yeomen of the Guard." Don't worry Nick, we will all redouble our efforts tomorrow.

THE Diary has been forced to sit up straight by the arrival of a press release from the Home Office. "Attention Diary Desks — Operational Note", it reads. "Neighbourhood Watch groups have been unfairly stereotyped as 'a bunch of curtain twitching do-gooders'. Home Office minister Alun Michael believes these days are over and that Neighbourhood Watch is more important than ever." We are sure he is right — especially now that most groups have dropped the military fervour with which they take watch.

AN ugly row between columnist Anne McElvoy and Simon Kelner, her editor at the Independent, seems to have petered out. "Show me the way to the nearest sex-discrimination tribunal," she wrote last week. "The giddy upheavals of the newspaper business have left me surrounded in this office by men who have hired a lot of other men in senior positions and rather fewer women." Moreover, she confesses, "there is rarely a day that I do not return home to kick the cat in a mood of grim impotence before retiring early with a copy of Susan Faludi's Backlash". More recently, an article in the Press Gazette insists Mr Kelner "believes women are a good thing". Indeed, he tells the Gazette, "I'm a sociable animal and I adore the company of women." Unsure whether this is a conciliatory gesture or a further snub to Independent women, we ring Anne for her opinion. Unfortunately, something about a mortgage and a cat to feed prevent her from commenting.

AS promised, we have consulted Takashi Yoshikawa's book on feng shui astrology, The Ki (Random Nonsense, £12.99), to discover the path to cabinet for Peter Mandelson. Yesterday, you will recall, we overcame our scepticism towards "the art of 9-Ki feng shui astrology" by reading the names of Viscount Rothermere and the late Sir David English amongst Mr Yoshikawa's acknowledgements. Using solely Mr Mandelson's date of birth, through a complex series of calculations set out by Mr Yoshikawa, we have managed to glean some insight into Peter's fate. His dominant characteristic is dependency: "Working at first as an assistant to a strong leader — for service is natural to them — gives them a basis from which to grow and learn," says The Ki. "You are in a hurry to succeed," it advises, "and want to develop and take lead or control things in your own way — step by step development is the best way to your future success." You couldn't spin it up! Could you?

ANOTHER possible clue as to the shape of the next cabinet is passed our way in the form of a party invite. The celebration, held yesterday, was to mark the first anniversary of the Department for International Development. It was presided over at Lancaster House by "The Rt Hon Clare Short MP, Secretary of State for International Development, Transport and the Regions."



Ulster leaves the Armalites at home and proceeds to the ballot box

Jonathan Freedland



THEY have no team in France, but they're hooked all the same. Northern Ireland's football fans last had the chance to root for their own side in a World Cup in 1986, but still they've fallen under soccer's spell. By all accounts the Northern Irish are lapping it up — even if they are dividing their allegiances on familiarly sectarian lines: Unionists cheering for England, nationalists backing Scotland.

The outbreak of footie fever has made life hard on the candidates jockeying for position in tomorrow's elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the new body created by the Good Friday peace agreement. One candidate was out canvassing the other day, knocking on a door, when his efforts were rebuffed with a bellow from the front room: "Will you ever fuck off? I'm watching the World Cup."

Still, even if the Northern Irish themselves are distracted from their date with destiny tomorrow, the rest of us should pay attention. For Ulster — once the pariah province within the United Kingdom, the bit of the British Isles no one wanted to emulate — is about to set a lead the entire nation should follow.

Fans of politics as a spectator sport will be enjoying the contest anyway. As usual, Northern Ireland has thrown up some vintage battles. Take North Antrim, where voters can choose between the human megaphone, Ian Paisley, the former IRA general, Joe Cahill, and Patricia Campbell, an Ulster Unionist who happens to be both a woman and a Catholic — a novelty for a movement which tends to be almost uniformly Protestant and legendarily male-dominated.

Electoral junkies are going to have a field day. Ulster's poll will be the most complex in UK history, and perhaps beyond — creating enough psephological data to keep political scientists busy for decades to come. Voters in each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies will choose from more than a dozen candidates, rank them in order, and then watch as an impossibly complex system of proportional representation transfers their preferences from one to another until six victors cross the finish line. — probably around lunchtime on Saturday. Men who once cut the air with the noise of gunfire, weighing the merits of a Kalashnikov against an Armalite, now talk of "quotas," "thresholds," "surplus votes" and "remainders". Political anoraks "are going to have multiple orgasms analysing all this stuff", predicts one Sinn Fein official.

Conservatives and others, who insist the IRA must decommission weapons before republicans be allowed their place in the new government of Ulster, should take careful note. Calmer voices always said the real question in Northern Ireland was not decommissioning, but the commitment to democratic politics: the transfer not of guns, but of energy — from violence to votes. The way Sinn Fein and the parties linked to the loyalist paramilitaries are throwing themselves into this current campaign is proof that a shift far more significant than the handover of a few, replaceable rifles is underway. The onetime men of violence seem to be engaged in something much deeper: a decommissioning of the heart.

Even so, some have suspected a more literal form of disarmament is underway. Gerry Adams raised eyebrows during last month's referendum campaign when he told a press conference: "IRA weapons have been taken out of commission and put on dumps. The guns have been silenced." Another Sinn Fein spokesman urged people to look around them: they would see that decommissioning was happening.

Was it possible the IRA was surrendering arms to the authorities on the quiet? One or two observers have quietly wondered if the recent foiling of republican spinter groups' terror attempts — bombs regularly found and defused at the last moment — has been helped along by IRA informers, enabling the RUC to snatch back the terrorists' ammunition and deplete their arsenal.

IT'S an appealing theory, but every indicator points in the reverse direction. Co-operation with the RUC, no matter how tacit, would be suicidal for the IRA, splitting the organisation in two. And the foiled explosives have tended to be of the homemade variety: not the sophisticated weaponry the IRA still has at its disposal. No, Adams's words should be taken at face value: the guns are "out of commission" because republicanism is pursuing a different strategy — politics, not violence.

The voters themselves seem to have got the message. The latest Irish Times poll shows decommissioning has slipped way down the list of issues important to voters. Nearly half of the electors say that "peace" is what really matters.

The same poll showed a massive majority for parties favouring the Good Friday agreement. It is they who will win tomorrow, no matter the exact allocation of strength. And when they do, Northern Ireland will begin its new role — not as the basketcase of the UK, but as the trailblazer.

The assembly will set a lead for the equivalent chambers in Cardiff and Edinburgh — partly because it will be up and running a full year before they are. It will house the first of the new executives, the mini-governments which are set to be the regional and local model across the UK. David Trimble will be the first of the new first ministers. Having spent years as the problem child of these islands, Ulster is set to be the senior sibling — setting out into the world as a pioneer.

Best and most profound of all, Northern Ireland is the first part of the Union to declare that the people are sovereign. While the rest of the UK still bows before the slippery, abstract notion of the "Crown in Parliament" the Belfast Agreement recognises in its opening pages "the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland."

It is an enormous move. Ulster has won for itself not only the chance of peace, but a prize that still eludes the British nation: sovereignty of the people. We may have kept our distance these last 30 years, but now we should all look to Ulster — and learn.

It did work out for me

Polly Toynbee



DIVORCE damages children — official. Children of divorce are twice as likely to fail at school, fail at work, take drugs, drink and smoke, suffer depression and commit suicide. So that's that. Parents who divorce are selfish, anti-social and immoral. Don't do it.

Most (but not all) research over the years has told us this, and each new study has been gleefully hailed by the moralisers. Yesterday Rowntree published a mighty tome surveying over 200 studies of the effects of divorce on children. It is a great academic work — conducted by Antipodean outsiders brought in by Rowntree because they are free of British insider academic disputes over all this. Their findings raise all the troublesome old questions about sociology. How difficult it is to measure the things that really matter about human beings — what makes and mars them, why they are as they are.

Social research doesn't exist in a value-free vacuum. All these studies have been conducted in a climate of swelling moral panic about divorce. They are steeped in prevailing social attitudes and constructed to produce desired results, if unwittingly. The questions asked display the anxieties of our times and provide answers required by policy-makers who are, directly or indirectly, the research paymasters.

Thus the pressing problem is whether or not divorce is damaging society. By asking that question, they get the answer they want. What if they had asked other questions — like what are the main causes of some children's failure? The answer would be less moral than economic and social — a picture of poverty, exclusion and diminished opportunity. But those are the very questions government in the past two decades was least anxious to ask. For social class differences between children are overwhelmingly more significant for their future lives than whether or not their parents divorce.

But divorce is what has engaged public concern, defined as a moral, not an economic problem, so government could apportion blame rather than provide solutions. Yet divorce and poverty are closely linked: the poorest couples are more likely to divorce and the divorced more likely to become poor. What's being measured — the effect of poverty or the effect of divorce?

NONETHELESS, this authoritative review of the research finds it probable that children of divorce really are twice as likely to suffer measurable bad effects. So what does that tell us? That parents shouldn't divorce? No, it can't tell us that. It simply doesn't know because it can't measure the multiple variables. However it does conclude emphatically that only a minority of children of divorce are adversely affected. Most are no worse off. Now that's a message largely missing from most reports. Lumping all children of divorce together, regardless of circumstance, is like a motor insurer creating a single high risk class of vicars and racing drivers. So the child of a violent, drunken divorce is counted in the same league as a child whose responsible parents separate amicably.

We need to know much more about which children do well and which do badly. The evaluators find the ill-effects on children begin long before divorce, with prolonged conflict causing most harm. Children with divorcing parents who don't have ferocious rows in front of them do better. But no one has measured (how could you?) how many children may be better off after their parents divorce than had they stayed together? The perfect controlled study would go something like this: take a group of socially identical, unhappily married couples; divide them randomly and let half divorce, while the rest stay together for the sake of the children. Measure the exact state of happiness of all the children from birth. Ensure that all couples who separate then lead identical lives — remarrying or not — and compare their children's performance over the years. Dream on, social researchers.

Now consider the variables that make divorce outcome statistics so utterly unreliable. Who is at most risk of divorce? The poor, people in prison, the violent, the mentally ill, drunks, addicts, gamblers, bad parents, bad spouses or anyone difficult to live with. These people may only be a minority of divorcees, but they will warp the children's outcome figures dramatically — for their children may already be damaged by their families. Consider too that troubled children — the severely handicapped, psychotic or delinquent — often cause such stress that their parents are more likely to divorce. So this report concludes that the bare fact of divorce may tell us very little about the root causes of these children's troubles.

When unpicked, these frightening statistics look so misleading as to be virtually meaningless. They are no guide for any particular couple considering separating. For some children, as these evaluators suggest, it could be an unmixed blessing. (I put myself in that category, looking back on my parents' divorce). For others it might be a damaging tragedy.

All this is a fruitless search for unknowable truths. Time now, the report suggests, to spend money on more useful work. What can be done to lessen the damage parents do to their children, together and apart? How do you persuade them not to row destructively in front of their children, even years after the divorce is over? How do you make sure children are talked and listened to, since that appears to make a key difference? How do you keep fathers in touch with their children, since so many vanish? Abandonment and rejection, they say, causes more damage than mere separation.

There is nothing governments can do to force unhappy people to live together. Moral anguish will get the state nowhere. But if they are seriously concerned about outcomes for children, there is plenty within their domain that they can do. Next time you read some catchy headline denouncing divorce as the mother of all misery, just consider that whatever harm divorce may do, it doesn't begin to compete with the damage done by poverty.

And consider something else: behind all this research there lies a naked yearning for an imaginary bygone era of marital harmony and family bliss. These studies never weigh up the value of divorce — the single greatest liberator of our times. They never assess how many millions have been freed from lives of unspeakable married misery which their ancestors were forced to suffer. Whatever the pain it causes, that is a hard-won freedom many children of divorce may also be thankful for in later life.



Divorce is the single greatest liberator of our times. Millions are freed from misery

It seems altogether undesirable for Panorama to follow the voyeuristic agenda of chat shows

Agony Auntie

Ros Coward

PANORAMA'S interview with Louise Woodward has given the idea of Auntie BBC a whole new lease of life. But now she's an agony auntie, from whom confused individuals and convicted criminals get a sympathetic hearing. Daytime chat shows long ago led TV entertainment down this route, but for hard news now to follow seems altogether undesirable.

When doubts exist about a possible miscarriage of justice, it's obviously within the scope of serious journalism to investigate. But Martin Bashir's Woodward interview had a much more voyeuristic agenda. It invited the public to play jury themselves, to decide whether Woodward is an innocent victim or a monstrous liar. This was problematic enough. After all, Woodward was convicted by a representative jury, chosen in a democratic way, and in spite of protests about the severity of her sentence, few protested her innocence. But much more problematic was the interview's staging. From the choice of Bashir, through to Woodward's make-up, everything encouraged the public to make a favourable verdict.

It's not Bashir's fault that in having conducted That Interview he was brushed by angel's wings. But the BBC knows that if That Interview made Diana the Queen of Hearts it simultaneously made Bashir the Prince of Heartache. After all, he came from nowhere (much to the resentment of some colleagues) to do the Diana interview and had no reputation to fall back on. So any subsequent interviews would instantly evoke the suffering and victimisation of Diana. Indeed the *mise en scène* of the Woodward interview went out of its way to reinforce that connection. It had the same seating arrangement, the same therapeutic ambience. Woodward even dressed in clothes evoking the dark soulfulness of Diana's on that occasion.

There were some new elements. Race has been an unspoken element in this case. Had racism influenced the public's readiness to believe a nice Anglo Saxon girl and to disbelieve the Asian father? Yet, in this context, Bashir's identity neutralised any possible racial element in the girl's overt hostility to the Eappen family. And, of course, there was the presence of Aunty herself. Even if the BBC forgets it, any public relations campaign knows in the eyes of the public that other auntie — the incorruptible guardian of public service ethos with a commitment to disinterested objectivity — has never gone away. If you can bend her ear for a sympathetic audience, it's as good as an affidavit of your innocence.

> No wonder there's so much unease about Woodward's BBC interview

All that remains of the Woodward case now is a public relations campaign. She can never undo her conviction. Her whole future and those of everyone around her depend on winning this battle. The media won't leave her alone. If it's quiet for the time being, it won't be for long. They'll find her wherever she is, whatever she does, however hard she tries to hide. And while there's any doubt still about her culpability, they'll make her life hell. In the interview she seemed strangely oblivious of how serious this is, carrying on about "getting back to normal". But somewhere — with her family and community already unravelling around her — she must grasp this is life and death stuff. Who can blame her for wanting the endorsement which being believed by the BBC gives?

But the BBC's role is much less forgiveable. In the interview, the baby Mathew Eappen returned into focus. The accounts of the banalities of his days — his bottles, his baths, his attempts to sit up — reminded viewers that he spent his last days the subject of contracts, chores and resentments, not as he should have been, the adored centre of attention. No wonder there's so much public unease about the interview. It's one thing for journalists to take up cases of miscarriage of justice, making them explicitly their cause, on programmes like Rough Justice. It's quite another to implicitly take sides in a disturbing case by becoming agony aunts.

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'I am inexplicably and irrationally in love with Leicester City FC'
Sophie Brookes, Letters

Clinton woos China

Will it suffer Asia's woes?

BILL CLINTON leaves for China today only two years after the US and China came close to conflict during the Taiwan Straits crisis: now he is close to embracing President Jiang Zemin. Relations between the two countries have veered between extremes of friendship and enmity: for reasons which are emotional as well as geopolitical, they are inextricably linked. As Mao Zedong once said: "There is no such thing as America not being involved with China."

Mao was seeking then to entice the US, once war with Japan ended, to abandon Chiang Kai-shek in favour of what would become the winning side in the Chinese civil war. How different the history of postwar Asia — and of China most of all — might have been if Mao's offer to visit Washington had been accepted. The door swung shut and was locked by the Korean War with some malign assistance from Moscow. It was not reopened until Richard Nixon stood on the Great Wall in 1972. But subsequent presidential visits lacked his simple aim. The anti-Soviet card, played first by Beijing and then by Washington, created more division than unity.

Many Chinese leaders continued to be wary of US "begemony"; many Americans still regarded Japan as a more dependable force in the Far East. A new effort might have been made in the early 1990s but for the tragedy of Tiananmen Square. Even so, there was always a feeling in Washington — long before Mr Clinton delcared his doctrine of constructive engagement — that China should not be cast into darkness again.

The two presidents have now defined a new and more ample purpose: to build a "constructive and strategic partnership" between the two countries for the 21st century. Both sides perceive a community of interest between the world's most powerful country and the world's most populous one. Mr Clinton has avoided using the "partnership" phrase since he endorsed it when Mr Jiang visited Washington last October (the Chinese leader uses it all the time). Increasingly on the defensive against his critics, he prefers to talk of "working with China" to achieve aims defined as in the US interest. Yet the visit is not going to produce agreements on matters of substance like security or non-proliferation or Taiwan or trade: it is a step towards a future framework.

On most of the contentious issues, the bargains are unlikely to be available. The US is not going to give China more assurances on Taiwan as long as China cannot "renounce the use of force". China will not secure a "no-first-use" pledge on nuclear weapons from the US — so it will not agree formally to detargeting. The US will not lift remaining Tiananmen sanctions unless China makes a demonstrative gesture on human rights. If these matters were easy to resolve, they would not still be there.

Mr Jiang's critics are less vocal although there is still muttering within the Party about US encouragement for its "peaceful evolution". Yet the force of this objection is weakened because Chinese politics are beginning to evolve and because Mr Clinton has moved human rights so far down the agenda. It does not really matter what he says on the subject while in Beijing. Having declared that freedom will follow the integration of China into the world community, he need not strive for it to happen before.

The vision of a US-Chinese partnership, especially in an economic sense, goes back over the past century. Other Western countries sought spheres of influence, the US pressed for an "open door". Mr Clinton speaks fervently of China's growth and he is going there to open the door even wider. The lurking threat to this vision is neither Congress nor dissident Chinese activity: it is the economic crisis in the region from which China may not be immune.

Campbell speaks

Play that megaphone loud, Al

CONVENTION says public officials paid for by taxpayers do not behave as partisans — that is why auditors investigate municipal officials to public acclaim. Yet the higher up the chain, the more the convention lives a double life. Whitehall knowingly provides intellectual ammunition to ministers to do down opponents. As for PR, ever since that potent mixer of innovation and rule-breaking, David Lloyd-George, appointed the first press officer, these odd birds have hopped back and forth across the boundary.

The previous cabinet secretary considered it no shame to defend the gruff Sir Bernard Ingham rubbishing left and right (though mainly left), as only doing his job as a megaphone for his prime minister. Has New Labour either challenged or broken the conventional understanding? Not on yesterday's evidence. Alastair Campbell's appearance before the Public Administration Committee affirmed it, in all its ambiguities. It's "a grey area", says the current Cabinet Secretary. When indeed does defence (legitimate) become attack (illegitimate, as Mr Campbell's contract of employment says)? The workaday answer is that for the Prime Minister's press secretary, the government is the occupant of Number Ten not those ministers who weekly attend brief meetings there. His adherence to the convention is attested by the way he lays into the PM's fellow Cabinet ministers. This was also the Ingham way.

The point of yesterday's hearings was the fleshly Alastair Campbell, answering for himself, justifably proud if unnecessarily arrogant, a personal spokesman whose credibility rests on the conviction with which he plays ventriloquist's dummy. It may not be an attractive role, but it can be done more or less honestly. That must depend on transparency. If Mr Campbell does the job on which he was priding himself, why do we need the petty deceits of "Lobby terms"? Full visibility of the kind promised by, say, televising prime ministerial press conferences is never going to be realised, as long as journalists and their media compete for disclosures. Competition is no excuse for the willingness of reporters to pay the price of anonymity to merchants of information (Mr Campbell has rivals) who use it in spite and self-interest.

Hidden treasure

The British Library must be free

TOMORROW, half a century after its conception and after a near-fivefold escalation of costs, the British Library will officially be opened by the Queen against the predictable descant of a row over admission charges. Brian Lang, chief executive of the BL, has stated that the £520 million new building (it works out at £43 per book) cannot be run on the annual grant it receives following the Government's decision to cut it by £6.4 million to £85 million. He says that "something has to give". The library itself is now a success. The numbers visiting have increased by 44 per cent with high reader satisfaction. The public is even warming to the much-criticised building, the foreboding exterior of which melts into a welcoming, airy, atrium behind whose tiered levels peeps George III's magnificent library.

The library is busily working out ways to open up its unique treasure house not only to the public (who can now wander in to view treasures ranging from the Lindisfarne Gospels to Shakespeare's first folios or originals of Beatles' songs) but also to the wider world through the Internet. A whole new industry could spring up to market the contents (digitised or merely copied) of the written and aural archives of one of the world's best-endowed libraries.

Commercialisation (to recoup the necessary costs of digitisation) is one thing, but charging the public admission to the reading rooms is another. It is not quite the same problem as, say, admission charges to the Tate because the BL has more elitist clients. But the principle of universal and free access remains. Nearly all of the books and newspapers in the collection were given free to the BL, which was itself built with taxpayers's money. The library should clearly be run with maximum efficiency and there may be more economies to be made — but to cut back on its grant when the Government has a budget surplus is a false economy. We are in an age when information is supposed to be at the heart of competitive advantage. Having had free access for 250 years, it is strange to charge just when there is acceptance that knowledge is the key to economic success. The Government should ensure that the BL's hidden bounty is opened up to the maximum number of people — including schools and remote researchers — at the least cost.

Letters to the Editor

Millennia and megalomania

PROGRAMMERS dealing with the millennium computer bug seem to think it could lead to social breakdown, with banks, transport, food supplies, emergency services and payroll systems all severely disrupted. It doesn't seem likely that people will be able or in the mood to enjoy the Dome (Tablet of stone for the topping out of Dome, June 23). It might be better for it to be used as a giant crisis control centre and food kitchen.
Nicholas Albery.
Chairman, Institute for Social Inventions, London.

IF TONY Blair wants the Dome to stay up long after the millennium maybe he should seek sponsorship from the makers of Viagra.
Peter Barnes.
Milton Keynes, Bucks.

TONY Blair is a raving megalomaniac (Letters, June 23); surely not? He is a smooth, persuasive and all too plausible megalomaniac, and therein lies the danger.
Ron Graves.
Birkenhead, Wirral.

BETTER a megalomaniac who has to face the electorate every few years than one who is merely the possible descendent of a megalomaniac who lived centuries ago.
Brian Moss.
Tamworth, Staffs.

RUMBLED by Romania, Cronjed at cricket and rogered at rugger, is it time for our sponsored-ised sporting super-seconds to be subjected to a National Winnable Wage and performance-related pay?
Patrick Browne.
Lincoln.

HURRAH for Robin Cook and his ethical policy of cutting Trident missiles in half (Report, June 18). What's that? By half, you say? Oh dear, and I was so impressed.
Philip Lloyd Lewis.
Bournemouth.

Who's to blame in Bristol?

IT IS naive of Prof Christopher Maggs (Letters, June 22) to question why nurses did not blow the whistle on misconduct at Bristol, without considering other factors. Too often, the relatively powerless are castigated for failing to challenge the powerful.

The anaesthetist who queried the Bristol surgeons was ostracised. High-profile nurse whistleblowers, such as Graham Pink, have not been supported by nursing's professional bodies, and nursing shop stewards have been victimised. In the NHS there is a hierarchical concentration of power. The Bristol debacle was a failure of medical arrogance, maintained by weak management. When things go well, nurses are excluded from the status and earnings of the power-brokers. It is ironic that a professor of nursing should ask for a fair share of the come-uppance when things go wrong.
Mick McKeown.
Dave Mercer.
Department of Nursing.
University of Liverpool.

DAVID Dollard (Letters, June 22) errs in asserting that there is no code of conduct covering health service managers. In 1994 the Institute of Health Service Management produced the Statement of Primary Values, which required managers to "respect the professional standards to which colleagues owe allegiance", "to promote a climate in which patients, colleagues and the public can register concerns and where discussion is encouraged and valued" and "take personal responsibility" for their actions and omissions.

Sadly, the code lacks any injunction to put the interests of patients first, and there is, as Mr Dollard states, no disciplinary body covering breaches of its provisions to which complaints can be addressed.
Dr R F Heys.
Halifax.

THE situation at the Bristol Royal Infirmary has arisen because of a completely false concept — that of self-regulation. This bogus idea works for wrongdoers at every level of society. In all inquiries into professional, legal, corporate, financial or other malpractice, it should be a principle (possibly backed by law) that the group under investigation should only be present at the inquiry as a minority — normally in an advisory capacity. Most inquiry members should consist of commonsense citizens from entirely independent walks of life.
Dr P R Rowland.
London.

IN an interview on local television a retired manager from the Bristol Royal Infirmary reported her experience of the relentless pressure on the hospital from the Department of Health to take on more and more work. We must ensure that the proposed inquiry into events at the hospital will be independent of the Secretary of State and will include a full scrutiny of any part taken by his department in these tragic events.
R Lewis.
Bristol.

A YOUNG white English girl is convicted of the manslaughter of a child in her care. She is feted by the media and public and returns home a heroine. A middle-aged, male, Asian doctor saves the lives of half of the children placed in his care. He is vilified by media and public and even physically attacked.
Dr Stephen Grant.
Bristol.



Young entrepreneurs out in cold

LARRY Elliott's focus on business start-ups (Bright sparks turned off, June 16) failed to deliver on its subheading: "How capital can be found to back Britain's entrepreneurial young."

This is no surprise as there has been a void in business start-up support since the demise of the Enterprise Allowance Scheme (EAS) in 1995. The situation is very serious in London where about 15 per cent of the workforce is self-employed — one of the highest rates in Britain. When EAS folded, London's seven Training and Enterprise Councils bid for Single Regeneration Budget funds to offer a business start-up support service. Since then 6,000 businesses were started, yielding 10,000 jobs. Ethnic minority entrepreneurs owned one-third of these new companies.

This funding is now finished. While London's Tecs will offer a basic service this year using a mix of funding sources, such an ad hoc approach to funding this crucial sector of the economy is wholly unsatisfactory.
Judith Rutherford.
Director, London Tec Coucil, London.

Unesco plea

IT IS a year since Britain re-entered Unesco. Unesco has the widest brief of all UN agencies. It is concerned with development, education, science, communications, the environment, anti-racism, human rights, the social sciences, culture and the arts, population, literacy, and so on.

As a result, all its member states are expected to establish a national commission, funded by government but not managed by it, composed of experts in all the above fields to provide specialist advice to Unesco and other members, and to maintain links inwards from specialists in other countries.

We have heard, and hope the rumour is unfounded, that there is some hesitation in governmental quarters about the need for a commission. On grounds of economy, of course. This would be like agreeing to rejoin a motoring club, but adding you can't afford to install an engine. We need the commission soon; work for it is mounting.
Richard Hoggart.
For the Unesco Forum, Farnham, Surrey.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters.

Vote gives right to be gay at 16 but not to be an adult

LOWERING the age of consent to gay sex is logical and fair (MPs back gay sex at 16, June 23), but increases complications about when children become adults. The Children Act 1989 says 18; daily practice says 16; the Department for Education and Employment says the last Friday in June after the 16th birthday.

A child turning 16 on or after September 1 has many "adult" rights immediately, but still up to nine months of compulsory education. If you cannot legally leave school or get a job, it seems odd that you can make other life-changing decisions, including where, and with whom, you live.

We need one point of transition which covers voting, working and everything else that goes with adulthood.
Ben Whitney.
Stafford.

IN calling for the age of consent to be lowered to 14, Tatchell and his mob demonstrate a complete lack of concern about the sexual exploitation of children. Many men find it easy to gain sexual access to children already. Reducing the age of consent would be an abusers' charter.
Julie Bindel.
Leeds Metropolitan University.

AN overwhelming parliamentary vote for an equal age of consent has removed the legal barrier to progress towards full equality. Now we can start to make educational and attitudinal advances, providing appropriate health education and information about HIV for young people, for example. And we can move on to tackle other disadvantages still faced by lesbians and gay men, and by people affected by HIV, such as Section 28, and employment and disability practices.
John Nicholson.
Director, George House Trust, Manchester.

Glory, glory days with the lads

JUST because Julie Burchill (Weekend, June 20) does not appear to understand the attractive qualities of football, does not mean that all women share her unfortunate ignorance, and it certainly does not imply that women who share a common interest with men are simply dying to jump into their trousers.

As a youth, I spent six fine summers playing football with the lads. My pre-pubescent ignorance of sexuality should only prove that men and women could share numerous interests if only the sexually obsessed society did not taint our views of each other.
Sarah Marusek.
London.

IT IS quite difficult to decide which is more annoying: Men who think I know nothing about football because I am a woman; or women who think I only like football to find favour with men.

I spend £400 on a season ticket and about the same on away games because I am inexplicably and irrationally in love with Leicester City FC.
Sophie Brookes.
Birmingham.

TRYING to break down the "grass ceilings" is a long struggle for aspiring women referees, managers, players and fans. As a teenager I spent many a cold, wet Friday night watching Stockport County when they were in the Fourth Division. Not for any man, but because I enjoyed it. (If you do print this letter, I won't see it as we're going to the World Cup.)
Frances Amrani.
Cambridge.

HOW many must die or be injured before we recognise that football is no longer a game but a commercial venture which incites hatred?
June Richards.
Gillingham, Kent.

Education?



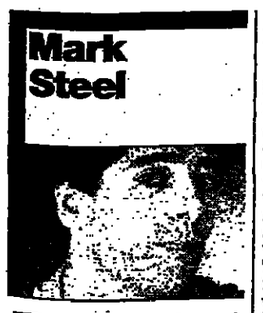
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Morse code



Mark Steel

DEVOTEES of television cop shows would imagine that it's almost impossible to get away with murder. Eventually a detective would notice something out of place, and somehow deduce that you couldn't possibly have been at the cinema on the night you said you were there. Which is why the real-life murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence wouldn't make a very good episode of Inspector Morse. It would have to start with 11 members of the public telling the police who the killers were — just hours after. One would say: "Those involved in last night's stabbing were: Neil Acourt, David Norris, Jamie Acourt, Gary Dobson. They were definitely involved and must be stopped." Then the person accompanying the victim at the time would tell police the direction in which the killers ran off, and give detailed descriptions of them. At that point Morse would grimace. "I don't know, Lewis. We just can't seem to get a lead on this case."

Then the companion and key witness would explain how the killers were yelling, "Nigger", and, within minutes of the attack, a car drove past the scene occupied by jeering lads, two of whom had been convicted of stabbing another black lad, Rolan Adams, two years earlier. Then Lewis would say: "And there's not a single clue as to what the motive might be, Morse."

The public inquiry into the Lawrence murder has revealed that police continued to reject claims that the attack was racist, although they had seen a secretly recorded film in which Neil Acourt, Norris and Dobson shout out the tortures they would like to inflict on black people.

You can't help thinking that if South London police had turned up to a lynching in Alabama, with a cross still burning and KKK scrawled over nearby walls, they'd say, "There is no reason to believe that this attack was more than a routine burglary."

On and on flood the examples of uselessness. The surveillance team had one mobile phone between them. Is this to save money? Will it soon be the norm for police arriving at a murder scene in the morning to say, "Well, we're not reporting it until the afternoon, it's peak rate until one o'clock you know."

Duwayne Brooks, Lawrence's friend who was with him at the time of the murder, was described by police as "awkward", "surly", "uncontrollable", "unco-operative" and "anti-police". Maybe by "anti-police" they mean he directed them to the killers, when they had been hoping that he would encourage their normal routine by directing them to a group of unemployed builders 50 miles away who had nothing to do with it.

Throughout their ordeal, the Lawrence family has behaved with great pride and dignity. Yet it has emerged that, six months after the murder David Osland, the then deputy commissioner of South East London police, wrote to police chief Paul Condon that "our patience is wearing thin with the Lawrence family".

He also advised officers to consider legal action against Neville Lawrence, Stephen's father, for alleging racism. But he told the inquiry that the family had "received a sensitive and sympathetic hearing from the police".

With all that sympathy and sensitivity, he'll end up working for the Samaritans — until he tells his first caller that his patience is wearing thin and if they don't stop moaning he'll have them sued.

Now, in a letter to the Police Review, Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan branch of the Police Federation, is urging Jack Straw to ignore the findings of the inquiry altogether. Instead, he asks: "How about an inquiry into the militants and others involved since the murder?" He adds: "Of course, it will never happen."

Maybe tomorrow he'll write another letter saying: "What about the egg marketing board? Eh? No one will hold an inquiry into them, will they?"

The real question is whether the police mistakes were a result of incompetence or racism. To answer that you just have to imagine whether the outcome would have been the same if Stephen Lawrence had been white, and the suspects black. And if you can't work that out in under 10 seconds, you'll never take over from Morse.

Mark Steel Revolution begins on Radio 4 next Tuesday.



Music man . . . a fast learner, Green still saw himself as a jazz-band workhorse REDFERNS

Benny Green

Horn of plenty

AT RONNIE Scott's funeral last year, Benny Green, who has died of cancer aged 70, recounted a joke. At another funeral several years earlier, Green — then suffering from a back injury — had been forced to travel to the proceedings lying prone in the back of an estate car. After the deceased was interred, Scott wandered over to the horizontal Green. "Hardly worth your while going home, is it?" the saxophonist suggested, pleasantly.

Green would very likely have anticipated — and probably hoped for — his own similar cast of phlegmatic mourner. Like many of the musicians who built a British outpost for American jazz in the early post-war years, he was a serious enthusiast who camouflaged complex emotion with deflationary humour. But unlike Scott, Green grew less guarded and suspicious as the years passed, and when his playing career wound down toward the end of the 1950s he put his passions — and dislikes — on show as an eloquent commentator on American popular music and jazz.

Thus did he provide an antidote to soundbite analysis. The classics of what is often called the "Great American Songbook" of the 1930s and 1940s — terse, journalistic compressions of modern urban romance from the pens of Arlen, Berlin, the Gershwins *et al* — are now on almost every young jazz vocalist's debut disc, and in danger of being valued simply for sticking around. But Green knew better.

Few commentators on 20th century popular music have been fortunate enough to combine emotional connections with the era that spawned those songs, the ability to play them as well as to hear them, the evaluative powers of a skilful critic and the empathy of a witty, receptive human being. Green put all those shots in the pockets.

He broadcast the last of his Sunday afternoon Radio 2 programmes, *The Art of the Songwriter*, only a month ago. His ironic delivery and that downbeat, gravelly east London intonation was also an early intrusion of informality into the Oxbridge fastidiousness of the BBC's Third Programme (later Radio 3) in the late 1950s. He always suggested an amiable stranger on the next barstool engaging you in a casually obsessive conversation about the artistic love of his life.

He was born in Marylebone and was taught to play saxophone by a sax-playing father. While at Marylebone grammar school, where he said he was "uneducated", Green, aged 13, took to the sax seriously. He played for his first paying audience at a Marble Arch church hall in 1943 with a repertoire of only two tunes — *Whispering* and *Whispering Grass*.

Much plagued by self-doubt in these early years, he suffered so acutely from insomnia that the night before his first appearance with full-timers in 1947 he forgot his mouthpiece. Two years later, when he realised the already famous Ronnie Scott was in his audience, his mouth dried up and prevented him from blowing at all.

But it was Scott who gave Green his biggest break, hiring him in 1952 for a quintet that later expanded into a nine-piece bop-meets-Mecca-Ballrooms outfit that was one of the few genuinely vigorous and confident British bop-influenced bands of the 1950s. Green often played baritone



Green . . . hidden passion

rather than tenor in these ensembles, and though he learned fast, he regarded himself as a something of a jazz-band workhorse compared to thoroughbreds like Scott, Derek Humble or Joe Harriott. The music press disagreed and in 1953 one paper voted him most promising newcomer.

But unlike many of his colleagues Green had another string to his bow. Well-read, educated and self-educated on the ways of the cultural world outside jazz, he began to write tentative columns in the music papers from 1955 onwards. By the end of the decade he had refined a knack for turning the deadpan, mercilessly observant and frequently bleakly economical vocal exchanges of jazz musicians into prose, often embroidering them with literary references that gave him access to the intellectual weeklies, non-specialist broadcasting and the press.

Film, drama, book and record reviews (for the Third Programme) expanded his repertoire. He also loved cricket and, from the 1970s, he was to edit the *Wisden Anthology*. In 1957 he took an English and history course at London's City Lit. In 1959 he met Kenneth Tynan at a Lisle Street jazz club when Tynan was on the verge of becoming the Observer's theatre writer. The meeting changed Green's life. Two years later Tynan encouraged him to go for the job of Observer jazz critic, marking the turning point in his transition from practitioner to commentator.

Green always credited Tynan with an insight into his talents he couldn't comprehend himself, but he began to introduce the largely overlooked resources of jazz to the Observer at a time when Duke Ellington had only recently made a comeback to general popularity, and Louis Armstrong was still delivering much of the charge he had ignited jazz with 40 years earlier.

When the avant-garde made its uncompromising appearance, Green took vehemently against it. He once memorably wrote of Ornette Coleman's random-harmony methods that "like a stopped clock, Coleman is right at least twice a day". He never recanted on his dislike of a jazz movement that rejected most of the tenets of musical quality he had acquired as a child.

But if he was unswerving in his condemnation of developments that didn't fit the frame of jazz that sprang from the spare, lyrical, instantly memorable popular song-form of the first half of the century, he was equally committed to helping secure the immortality of the pioneers against the vagaries of fashion and snobbery. He contended that Ellington was the century's greatest American musician.

Green also wrote and produced shows of his own, including a theatrical tribute to Cole Porter and three musicals co-written with John Dankworth, as well as works of fiction — often taking as their starting point the tragicomic world of the north London dinner-dance and bar-mitzvah circuit.

He was, his friend Alan Coren observed, a very rare animal. He was, with a wit, wilfulness and independence that mirrored jazz itself. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

John Fordham

Benny Green, writer and musician, born December 9, 1927; died June 22, 1998

Appreciation

Morris Kestelman

JOHN Russell Taylor writes: Morris Kestelman was considerably more versatile than my obituary (*June 19*) might have suggested, because of an error in transmission. At the Royal College of Art, where he studied from 1926 to 1929 after leaving the Central School, he specialised in theatrical design, his own first designs being for a college production of *The Magic Flute* in 1929.

His interest in the theatre was passionate — this probably had something to do with his daughter Sara becoming an actress — but he did not have an opportunity to work professionally in the medium until 1939, when Tyrone Guthrie commissioned him to design sets and costumes for his production of *Carmen* at Sadler's Wells.

This was a distinct success, but Kestelman's prospective career as a theatrical designer was interrupted by the war, throughout which he was a full-time air raid warden.

Always he continued painting and, when necessary, teaching part-time. A promising commission from Noel Carrington to make a lithographic book about the circus was again aborted by the war, though four of the vivid and colourful lithographs he then made were finally published earlier this year. He did other illustrations, notably of Dickens and Voltaire, but never finally got to do the impressive work of which he was capable as an illustrator.

But at least he did take up theatre design again late in the war: between 1944 and 1949 he designed productions of *Richard III*, *The Alchemist* and *Dr Faustus* for the Old Vic, as well as the Puccini double-bill *Il Tabarro* and *Gianni Schicchi* at Sadler's Wells.

HE also became involved in mural painting, executing two large murals for an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1946, exhibiting with other new-generation mural painters at the Burlington Gallery in 1950, and being one of the painters commissioned to do large murals for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

That year Kestelman's life took a significant new turn when he was appointed head of painting and sculpture at the Central School of Art, a post he held for 20 years. He was always accounted an excellent teacher, never restrictive but always ready to help pupils generously with technical advice and try delicately to direct them along the lines which made best use of their individual talents.

Professor Michael Wilks

The power behind the throne

THE medievalist Professor Michael Wilks, who has died aged 67, was one of a multitude of brilliant pupils at Cambridge University of the late Walter Ullmann and perhaps the one who remained the most faithful to his teacher's views. He spent much of his scholarly life at Birkbeck College, London, studying two contrasting medieval answers to the question of the location of sovereignty in society.

The first was that of the 14th century papalist theorist, Augustinus Triumphus and the second that of John Wyclif. Wilks's doctoral dissertation was developed and finally emerged in 1963 as *The Problem of Sovereignty in the Later Middle Ages*, a study of the political ideas of Augustinus Triumphus.

Most medieval men saw society as a single entity encompassing all Christians, as the universal church dedicated to the ultimate aim of salvation. But where did sovereignty reside? Augustinus saw Christ's vicar, the Pope, as embodying his mystical body, the church on earth, and as such the source of power in society, of emperors and kings as well as of churchmen.

The philosophy of the very different John Wyclif, who argued for a reformed society led by a godly prince, was Wilks's major interest for many years. To Wilks, ideas were never disembodied, but always concretely influential, and in his work there was always much that was novel and arresting.

Born in Bedford, he was educated at Brighton College and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained a fellowship by dissertation and was awarded the Prince Consort Medal in 1958. A research fellow at Trinity, from 1957-62, he became an assistant history lecturer at Birkbeck in 1957, rising to professor in 1974. He remained there until his retirement in 1992. He headed the history department three times and was dean of the faculty of arts from 1981-83. He was always courteous and understanding, meeting problems with humour and impressive acuity.

An inspiring lecturer and teacher, Wilks adopted — apparently an inheritance from Ullmann — an inquisitorial method with discussion classes, and his probings provoked thought and clarified issues, even though they sometimes prompted comparisons with the Spanish Inquisition's Torquemada. He particularly enjoyed teaching mature students at Birkbeck. His disciplined and firm handwriting was as minute as the notoriously small script of St Thomas Aquinas, so small indeed that sometimes the detailed notes for a lecture could be contained on the back of a cigarette packet.

Wilks was a founder member, and sometime treasurer and president of the Ecclesiastical History Society, and in 1991, the society presented



Wilks . . . invigorating

him with a Festschrift, *The Church and Sovereignty circa 590-1918*. He received many other distinctions and honours and in 1978 he gave the prestigious Birkbeck lectures in ecclesiastical history in their 100th year at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Wilks's marriage to Stella in 1954 — they had been childhood friends — was a union of two considerable characters and brought them strength, happiness and two sons. They lived in Carshalton, Surrey, nearly all their married lives, and Wilks was a tireless member and chairman of the Carshalton Society, devoted to the preservation and improvement of the area's amenities. Once called a "public nuisance" at a public inquiry into the traffic problems of the town, he retorted that every local community should have a licensed public nuisance. He was also a member of the Surrey Industrial History Group and the Gunpowder Mills Study Group.

Wilks collected match boxes, stamps, wine labels and, above all, cats, with whom he seems to have had a special affinity; they too must have recognised a congenial, independent temperament. His scholarship and attitudes were invigorating. His last book purchase was a biography of John Wilkes, a man of a kindred radical spirit.

His wife and sons survive him.

Patrick McGurk

Michael John Wilks, medievalist, born August 13, 1930; died May 11, 1998

Colin Nuttall

Shelter from the storm

ONE wintry Saturday morning in 1986, Colin Nuttall, who has died aged 67, was sitting in a van with Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth opposite the gates of Manchester's Strangeways prison. They watched a long line of women and children, huddled against the bitter cold and rain, waiting for visiting time. It was a scene reminiscent of Dickens. Something, they agreed, had to be done.

Within six months, funds had been raised, the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, had given his backing, and the first prison visitors' centre was opened in a disused warehouse opposite the prison gates, offering shelter, cups of tea and friendliness. In 1991 it was to prove a haven for prison staff and prisoners' families during the Strangeways riot. Now a purpose-built centre, maintained within the prison boundary, staffed mainly by volunteers, it offers civilised facilities, a tea-bar, crèche and advice.

The venture was copied, under Nuttall's guidance, by many other prisons. It was just one of his achievements as secretary, and later director, of Selcare, a voluntary organisation offering support to offenders, ex-offenders and their families.

The son of a Unitarian minister, Colin Nuttall followed in his father's footsteps but practised a secular ministry as a probation officer. As a boy he learned to play the church organ and was soon recruited for Sunday services, receiving his first fees in threepenny bits. He played regularly in the little Unitarian chapel in Oldham, which was filled to overflowing for his funeral. High-powered committee work and book-keeping during the week gave way to hymn-singing and walks in the Pennine hills on Sundays.

Nuttall personified Selcare, drawing on his previous experience as a company secretary and extending his probation work to champion after-care programmes for ex-convicts. There were work schemes, day centres, narrow-boat holidays for young offenders, hostel holidays in Derbyshire and the opening of 14 accommodation hostels in Manchester.

The number of people who have benefited from Colin Nuttall's work is beyond measure. He is survived by his wife, Marian, and family.

John Midgley

Colin Nuttall, probation officer, born September 1, 1931; died May 28, 1998

Paul Keel

High notes and low life

IN the 1980s, Paul Keel, the former Guardian reporter and jazz trumpeter who has died of cancer aged 49, specialised in authoritative, interpretative articles. These are known in the trade as "backgrounders" and take in the unglamorous, footslogging jobs few want to do.

Background stories are compiled over weeks, months and sometimes years, often as a criminal trial is running. They anticipate, and are published, when a guilty verdict is reached. Keel's accounts of the Brink's Mat robbery — when gold bars worth around £26 million were stolen from a Heathrow Airport warehouse — and the record "blag" of at least £40 million in cash, jewellery, gold and drugs from a Knightsbridge safe deposit were classics of the genre.

Later, some police officers offered him a congratulatory dinner, in order, Keel suspected, to discover what more information he had — few of the safe depositors had, for suspected sinister reasons, come forward. The officers turned up for the preliminary meeting in an East End pub, looking rather uncomfortable in their perceived version of Guardian-wear — blue jeans and open-necked shirts.

Keel was waiting, as always immaculately turned out in an Italian suit, silk shirt and tie — good clothes were one of his few extravagances. He agreed to help — as long as they could all eat at the Savoy Grill. They drank three uneasy halves of lager, and ended the meeting. At a Christmas party that year, Keel was jokily presented with photographs of his disparate contacts leaving the pub. He never asked who took them.

Keel embraced two of life's more gregarious and flirtatious passions — journalism and jazz. He was sustained by a glorious, darkish sense of humour. Born in Liverpool and brought up in Portsmouth, he left St Edmund's Roman Catholic secondary school aged 16. He had decided that he didn't need GCEs to realise his ambition — to become a jazz trumpeter. He worked as an odd-job man and talent ensured him gigs with visiting bands, including those of Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk, on Southsea pier.

Within four years he had moved to Birmingham, where there were more jazz venues to play. His stage trade-mark was an ability to lean back as he blew the high, blue notes. He once did this so dramatically that he fell backwards through a set of drums, but Keel just kept on playing. The audience, believing in this *chutzpah*, went mad for more.

Keel's Birmingham employers, a firm of goldsmiths, recognised they had a very bright boy cataloguing gold-leaf, and encouraged him to further his education through day-release courses, and eventually a place at Bristol University, where he graduated in history, politics and philosophy. The subjects fascinated him; he really never stopped studying them, and he read voraciously and widely for the rest of his life. He loved Spain and its history, and visited Havana just to read Hemingway *in situ*.



Keel . . . brave and resilient

Keel entered journalism on the South Wales Echo in Cardiff, where he specialised in political reporting and became a close friend of a local MP, Neil Kinnock. He moved to the Guardian 1979 and, like many of his colleagues, regularly found himself in Northern Ireland. At great personal risk, he also reported the civil war in Uganda and the Iran-Iraq war.

Later he was to report from the Falklands, immediately after the conflict. His incisive, analytical dispatches were all the more brilliant because, ostensibly, very little of news value was happening — and the public were suffering from Falklands fatigue. But he stirred up new interest about the justification of prosecuting such a war.

In 1990 Keel left the Guardian. He wanted to play more jazz, take time out to study, and review his life. He worked, casually, as a journalist to pay the bills. Cancer first struck two and a half years ago. Early this year it advanced again, a final cruelty for a brave and resilient man. As he grew weaker, Keel would rest in an armchair pulled up to an open window in his Highgate flat, looking out over London, listening to the beat of New Orleans jazz. He is survived by his former wife, Bridget Abbott. There were no children.

Gareth Parry

Paul Keel, journalist and jazz trumpeter, born January 31, 1949; died June 17, 1998

A Country Diary

THE WREKIN: Going back into the woods on a clear bright day after weeks of rain is like a gardener returning to an allotment after a spell of bad weather. The difference is that I make no claim on this place. I've no objection, as Thoreau put it, to "make the soil say bean" but here the soil speaks for itself. It says trees, honeysuckle, grasses, bramble. After what seems like a month of wet Sundays, the woods are luxuriant, vibrant and singing. The pathways, other than the main up-to-the-top-and-back track, shift and twist over time. Some are old and well trod; some are new. Some are overgrown because the places they lead to get forgotten or misunderstood by eye, feet, hooves or wheels seeking something else. We zig-zag up the western flank onto a track which seems to lead nowhere. This nowhere begins where the trees end abruptly — a very steep slope of grass below the summit. It is one of the most wonderful places for many miles around. Red fescue is in flower, each stem holding a foamy blob of cuckoo spit and spangled between with bedstraws. There are ancient clumps of bilberry and a few stunted birches and bright dense stands of bracken. Big grey and silver clouds reach out from the west where the light is so clear you feel you can almost touch the hills of south Shropshire and Wales. Then the magic really kicks in. Here come the jack-screamers, the manic swifts and the flickering, darting swallows and house martins. The insects must be low over the grass and there are dozens of wild, blade-winged, forked-tailed, blue, black and white flashes inches from us and swooping far below. They are this old hill's song of summer.

PAUL EVANS

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A RESOURCES feature on air pollution, pages 10 and 11, Guardian Education, June 9, wrongly identified in a graphic the cooling towers of a power station as a source of pollution. Two labels indicating the steam rising from the towers should have been attached to the smoke rising from the adjacent power station chimneys.

A RESOURCES feature on primary fiction, myths and legends, page 8, Guardian Education, yesterday, spelt lightning (as in flash of) with an e in it.

KATE MILLETT, the author of *Sexual Politics*, had her name wrongly spelt in the teasers across the top of page 1 yesterday. It was also spelt wrongly in the contents on the front of G2. In the byline with the actual piece, on pages 4 and 5, G2, it was spelt correctly, as it appears here. Sorry.

THERE were two errors of transcription in a letter, page 17, June 22, when a work by Rameau became *Platte*, instead of *Platée*, and Birtwistle's *Gawain* became *Sir Gawain*.

A GUIDE to the coloured ribbons used to promote awareness of, or raise money for, various causes, page 10, June 22, showed one for ME when it meant to say MS. The colour of the MS ribbon is officially described as "vibrant blue". The ribbon we showed varied in colour through various editions from blue to purple, adding to the confusion.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Clare Alexander, publisher, 45; **Jeff Beck**, blues and rock guitarist, 54; **Claude Chabrol**, film director, 68; **Ian Christie**, clarinettist and film critic, 71; **Garfield Davies**, general secretary, Usdaw, 63; **Anita Desai**, novelist, 61; **Roger Dobson**, director-general, Institution of Civil Engineers, 62; **Mick Fleetwood**, rock drummer, 51; **Prof Sir Fred Hoyle**, astronomer and science fiction writer, 83; **Betty Jackson**, fashion designer, 51; **Stephen Jefferies**, ballet dancer, 47; **John McCormick**, controller, BBC Scotland, 54; **Owen Paterson**, Conservative MP, 42; **Prof John Postgate**, microbiologist, 76; **Robert Reich**, economist, 52; **Cesare Romiti**, chairman, Fiat, 75; **Betty Stove**, tennis player, 53; **Mary Wesley**, writer, 88.

Death Notices

ASH. Joan, on June 21st, after a short illness, aged 61. Strong until the end. Dearly loved wife of Harry, loving mother of Barbara, Hugh and Jane and seven grandchildren. Private cremation. A commemoration will be held, 1 pm, Wednesday July 1st, Wildcroft, Coombe Park. No flowers. Donations to The Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, 364 Fife Road, Kingston-on-Thames KT1 1SU

CHESTER-JONES. On June 20th in hospital in Sheffield, Hanel Ellis, aged 82 years. Beloved wife of the late Professor Ian Chester-Jones, dear mother of Hugh, Gareth and Ruth, mother-in-law of Aurelia and Anne and loving Nain of Angharad, Rhodri, Siân, and Mair. Service at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium, Tuesday June 30th at 11.30am. No flowers please. Donations payable to Age Concern may be sent to John Heath & Sons Funeral Directors, Sheffield S4 7LS.

YEOLEY. Diana, died in peace on Sunday, 21st June, greatly loved wife of Harold, mother of Mark and Hugh, daughter of the late Sydney and Peggy Bayliss. Funeral service at 1.30pm on Thursday, 2nd July at Christ Church, Highbury Grove, London N5. No flowers, but donations please to Marie Curie Centre, Edenhall, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3 5NS

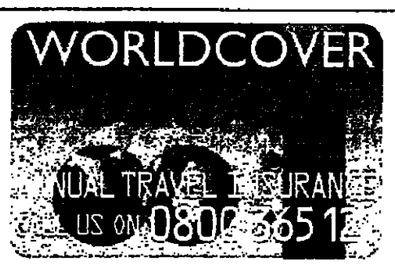
In Memoriam

HOWARD. David. Dear Son, you are in our thoughts every moment, but today, 24th June, with our greatest love, we remember your birthday. Mum and Dad.

Memorial Services

GROAK, Steven, Gratis. 2pm on 3rd July at The Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London NW1. In celebration of his life.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4367 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.



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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Asian woes come home

Trade slumps into the red

Charlotte Denny

BRITAIN's trading balance with the rest of the world swung sharply into the red in the first three months of 1998, as the crisis in Asia and the strength of sterling bit deep into exports.

The current account recorded a £3.2 billion deficit between January and March this year, the first negative figure for five quarters and the highest level for six years, according to data released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

The size of the deficit startled economists in the City, who had been predicting a figure a third the size.

"The eight-year trend of improving external balances has shifted decisively into reverse," said John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets.

The ONS also released its final estimate of growth in the first quarter of the year, confirming that economy expanded by 0.5 per cent.

But it revised the year-on-year growth rate upwards to 3.0 per cent, a move which analysts said could increase the chances of the another rise in rates next month by the Bank of England. "Domestic demand continues to proceed at a pace," said an ONS spokesperson.

The Confederation of British Industry warned that after recording the first current-account surplus since 1985 last year, the UK's external position was set to worsen dramatically this year.

"We are expecting a large current-account deficit of £8.8 billion this year," a spokesman said.

ONS statisticians said large falls across all areas of the current account, from trade to investment income, accounted for the decline in the balance.

The biggest single factor was an unusually large credit to the European Union, which pushed the balance on inter-governmental payments down by £1.5 billion over the quarter, the largest reduction ever recorded.

The decline in exports has spread from manufacturing to services, where the trade balance fell by £500 million over the quarter.

Income from tourism took a tumble as the strength of sterling discouraged visitors, while British residents spent a record £4.8 billion abroad — 15 per cent up on a year ago. The overall trade deficit on goods and services ballooned to £4.7 billion over the quarter, the worst figures since the second quarter of 1990.

The deteriorating trade position with countries in South-east Asia and Japan, whose currencies have plummeted in value, accounted for £1.4 billion of the trade deficit, according to the ONS.

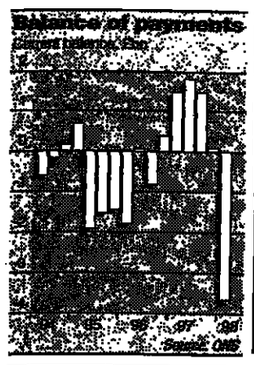
Overseas investment income has also been affected by the crisis, as UK companies have seen profits on Asian operations decline. The balance on investment income was down by £700 million on the previous quarter.

City analysts said the current account was heading for a deficit of about 1 per cent of GDP for the year.

"The reappearance of a current account deficit is probably the most dramatic sign of the damage being wrought by the strong pound," said Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe.

Opposition parties used the figures to launch a fresh attack on the Government's management of economic strategy. "These figures show another wheel coming off the wagon," said the shadow chancellor, Francis Maude.

"They are further evidence that Gordon Brown is squandering the golden economic legacy he inherited from the Conservatives."



Raise income tax say steel firms

BRITAIN's steel industry yesterday urged the Government to change course by raising taxes to curb spending in order to meet its 2.5 per cent inflation target instead of relying solely on higher interest rates, *writes David Gow.*

Warning that current fiscal and monetary policy was driving up the pound to damaging levels, the UK Steel Association said sterling's strength would threaten output, exports and thousands of jobs if it continued unchecked.

The industry launched its lobby for a government rethink backed by a report from the Centre for Economics and Business Research, an independent economists' group. The group argues that the industry would have to boost productivity — already the highest in the world — by 49 per cent to offset the loss of competitiveness caused by a strong sterling.

That, the CEBR said, would require productivity to rise annually by 8.3 per cent more over five years than rivals' — at the cost of tens of thousands of jobs.

British Steel, the industry's largest company, said the strong pound reduced profits by £500 million in 1997. It is scheduled to cut 10,000 jobs to win back its role as the world's lowest-cost producer.

Last year, the industry achieved record exports in volume terms but suffered a steep decline in value.

Evidence so far this year suggests that steel exports are down 3.2 per cent while imports are up 12.3 per cent. CEBR analysts said the impact this year could be to cut national output by £870 million, and export earnings by £350 million.

Michael Robson, the president of the UK Steel Association, said: "The present fiscal and monetary policy is wrong. Consumer spending must be brought down, but there are alternatives to the policy of total reliance on interest rates."

Among the options canvassed to help lower interest rates and drive down sterling are: running a large budget surplus; tax on borrowing; ending mortgage interest tax relief; rises in property stamp duty; and higher council taxes.

Mr Robson said: "These options are all politically unpopular. But the answer for manufacturing as a whole is to do something politically unpopular."

Notebook

Scardino takes on a sacred cow



Edited by Lisa Buckingham

IT HAS been a remarkable 18 months for media group Pearson's boss, Marjorie Scardino. It has been even more remarkable for the City, where misogynists and doubters have been forced to recant their early judgment that she was an ineffectual lightweight — and foreign, to boot.

Whatever the doubts about Ms Scardino and her unorthodox, collegiate style of management, support was strong enough for the shares to rise when she recently outbid Rupert Murdoch and buy-out specialists KKR for the publisher Simon & Schuster, at $4.6 billion (£2.8 billion).

A fresh executive has a honeymoon during which excess baggage can be dropped at the door of predecessors. Ms Scardino has done her share of this — particularly with the widely-applauded decision to dump Mindscape, the games business.

Another freedom she enjoys is being able to challenge sacred cows. That is what she is doing with the Tussauds group. With other remnants of Pearson's assets — notably its merchant-banking associate, Lazards — theme parks do not belong in "focused" media group.

If she can attract top dollar for the Tussauds business, Ms Scardino can probably look forward to a place in the stock market's hall of fame.

Lucky for some

TAILS are up in the tobacco industry. The renewed sense of confidence among cigarette manufacturers, born of the collapse of attempts to impose punitive new legislation in the United States, was given another fillip with the overnight victory for BAT's Brown & Williamson subsidiary in the Florida appeals court.

A compensation award of $750,000 for 66-year-old Grady Carter, the lung cancer victim who smoked Lucky Strikes for 45 years, has been overturned. The court ruled that the case was filed too late.

BAT is now looking at the ruling to see if it can be used against another verdict earlier this month, awarding $1 million damages.

It is, however, worth remembering that for all the anti-smoking frenzy, there is only one court award the industry's battalions of lawyers have failed to see off. That was made only a few weeks ago, and will certainly be the subject of an appeal.

The ramifications of the Florida case make President Clinton's latest pledge of action against the industry appear even more impotent.

Unable to secure punitive legislation, the President is now launching an investigation to find out which brand teenagers like best. Anyone in the industry could tell him for free that the brand is Marlboro — which most of their parents smoke.

If this is the best the President can offer, few will be shaking with fear, particularly now the industry's executives appear to have concluded that there will be no fresh attempt to introduce anti-tobacco legislation in the US in an election year.

If the coast is clear over there, the industry is also enjoying a few moments in the sun on this side of the pond.

Germany has decided to challenge the attempt to impose a Europe-wide tobacco-advertising ban on the basis that it is a health matter but not a single-market issue, and must therefore be decided in member markets.

In Britain the tobacco industry is also seeking a judicial review of the hostile findings of the Government's scientific committee.

But these are nothing more than isolated moments of respite in the long-running battle against the industry. The pickings are simply too rich to resist.

Inflation's herald

YESTERDAY's balance of payments figures will not make comfortable reading for the Bank of England's monetary policy committee members.

After posting the first current account surplus for 13 years in 1997, the UK is now back in the familiar situation of running an external payments deficit.

For the moment, the current account is acting as a pressure valve for the economy, allowing the strength of domestic demand to leak overseas. But the committee will be worried that, as in the past, the widening deficit will be a harbinger of higher inflation to come.

The Bank's dilemma is clear. Its only weapon to rein back growth to a sustainable rate is interest rates. But increasing the cost of borrowing boosts sterling. This hits the wrong part of the economy — the tradeable sector — as yesterday's figures show. It takes longer to impact on consumer spending, which powers unsustainable growth.

Britain's new monetary policy mechanism treats the export sector like a concertina, to be squeezed when demand needs slowing. But the costs become clearer daily.

The Bank has been careful to refrain from criticising the government for not using fiscal policy to check consumers and achieve a more balanced slowing of growth.

But every set of figures during the last month has suggested that the economy is on its way to a hard landing. Inflation and earnings are rising and unemployment has stopped falling.

Whatever it does next, the monetary policy committee will be criticised. If it raises rates it will be accused of hammering the economy on its way down. If it does not, it could overshoot the Government's inflation target. Either way, it may be in for a roasting.





Alton Towers in Staffordshire is one of the country's leading tourist attractions but Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, wants to build a pure media company and double its size by 2002

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

Tussauds put up for sale by Pearson at £400m

Julia Finch

THE country's leading tourist attractions, including Madame Tussaud's waxworks, the Alton Towers theme park and Warwick Castle, were put up for sale yesterday for £400 million.

The Tussauds Group, which also owns Chessington World of Adventures, the London Planetarium and the Rock Circus in Piccadilly, London, was put up for auction by Pearson, its parent company, which wants to concentrate on interests ranging from the Financial Times newspaper to television production companies.

The Tussauds sell-off comes as First Leisure, the nightclubs-to-gyms group, is looking for a buyer for its resorts division, which includes Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens, and Eastbourne Pier.

Nearly 10 million people visited the Tussauds Group's venues last year, giving it a profit of £35 million. First Leisure's resorts divison made £10 million last year, with one third of the profit coming from the Tracco Caravan Park in Porthcawl.

Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London and Alton Towers in Staffordshire, which pulled in a combined 5.5 million visitors last year, are the country's two leading tourist attractions charging an admission fee.

The only bigger crowd-pullers are Blackpool Pleasure Beach (7.8 million visitors), the British Museum (6 million), the National Gallery (4.8 million) and the Palace Pier in Brighton (3.5 million). They all offer free entry.

Pearson's announcement that it will "consider offers" for its leisure operations comes weeks after the Tussauds offshoot said it was buying the Thorpe Park leisure complex in Surrey.

The company is said to have received more than 10 approaches from trade and financial buyers in Europe and the US. City speculation centred on the Rank Group and Time Warner in the US. Mintel, the market research group which has completed a report into the UK theme park business, said big brewing and leisure groups like Whitbread or Scottish & Newcastle might be interested.

Analysts welcomed the decision to sell and calculated the business would fetch between £350 million and £400 million.

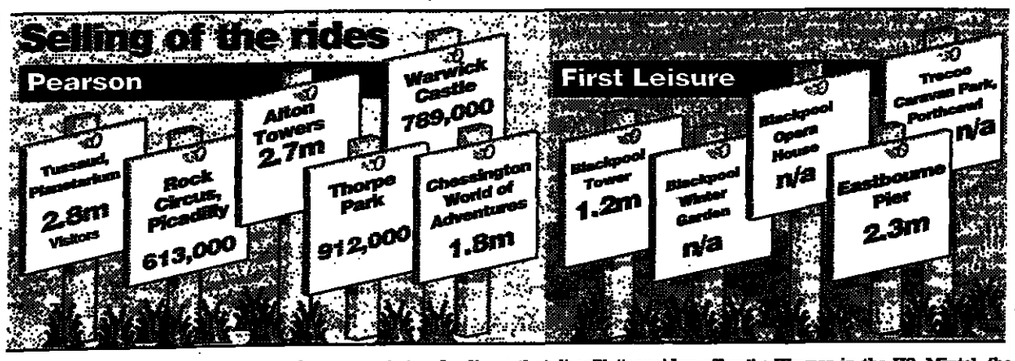
The sell-off is part of a plan by Marjorie Scardino, Pearson's chief executive, to transform the group into a pure media company and double its size by 2002. It also reflects the City's increasing demands for "focus" in companies.

Ms Scardino has offloaded assets worth £700 million in the past 18 months, reinvesting proceeds in media operations.

City analysts have expressed doubts about the cash theme parks need to finance constantly new, ever more exhilarating rides to attract new and repeat visitors.

Michael Grade, chairman of First Leisure and the former boss of Channel 4 television, yesterday said talks were continuing with potential resort buyers. He hopes to find a buyer by the end of next month and analysts believe the division is likely to fetch up to £120 million.

Mr Grade disclosed first half profits up 10 per cent, but the shares dropped 36p to 379p as he warned that trading is falling short of expectations.



Ombudsman powerless in 6,000 windfall claims

Liz Stuart

MORE than 6,000 people complaining to the Building Societies Ombudsman about injustices in windfall pay-outs were told he was powerless to help, it was revealed yesterday.

The ombudsman, who has received a record number of complaints over the last 12 months, said the complainants' only redress was to go to the High Court. Almost half the 15,500 complaints related to the eight organisations converting or already converted to plc status. But Brian Murphy, the ombudsman, said in his annual report that he was only able to deal with complaints relating to the societies' "everyday" business.

"Many people are disappointed that I cannot investigate their complaints, and I have received many letters trying to persuade me to change my view. Whatever opinion I may have on the fairness of the terms for issuing shares, I cannot challenge those terms or change them," he said.

He pointed out that much of his and his staff's time was spent deciding *which* cases he could resolve, rather than resolving them.

Mr Murphy is also powerless where the complaint relates to conditions attached to products — such as redemption penalties on discount or fixed-rate mortgages.

"There have been allegations that societies are recouping more from the lock-in period than they concede up front, but it is for the societies to design the products, and for me to make sure that nobody is misled," he said.

Only in cases where a converting society has been negligent in its "everyday" business is the Ombusdman able to intervene — for instance, if an account has been credited with an incorrect sum, depriving the customer of a windfall payment.

This year there were almost 1,000 such complaints, with the Halifax accounting for almost half. In his report, Mr Murphy warned that societies charging unfair penalties for late mortgage payments would be "named and shamed", especially those regularly writing off fines once his office intervenes.

Complaints relating to non-conversion fell by 23 per cent on last year's. More than 4,300 concerned mortgages while 2,200 were about investment or banking services.

The highest compensation awarded to a consumer was £74,000. The unnamed society refused to allow the borrower to accept a sale price because it wanted to repossess and sell the property itself.

British Airways to be forced to reduce flight frequencies

David Gow
Industrial Editor

GOVERNMENT ministers yesterday reasserted Britain's claim to be Europe's inward investment capital as Scotland hailed new figures showing that the £1 billion it attracted last year had guaranteed a record 18,000 jobs.

Brian Wilson, Scottish industry minister, said investors were "beating a path to Scotland's door" as a survey of 1,700 large and medium-sized German companies showed they saw Holland as Europe's premier business location.

The UK came just behind Switzerland, in third place, with its ranking as best for low taxes and labour costs offset by its lowly position for productivity and education/training among its workforce. Critics of successive governments' spending to attract foreign investors say it merely brings in low-paid, low-skilled jobs.

Mr Wilson and Locate in Scotland, the inward investment agency, disclosed that the planned £1.01 billion investment of 1997/98 would create or safeguard 17,947 jobs — the highest number in the agency's 17-year history.

But call centres accounted for 7,000 of these, underlining the relative decline of electronics, previously the biggest source of new jobs. Europe is providing 10,838 jobs and North America 6,578.

According to German Investment World, the UK has the lowest overall production costs — and Germany the highest — among 17 west European countries. But Germany ranks highest for infrastructure, employee education and quality of suppliers while the UK comes sixth, 12th and 10th.

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Canada 2.394	India 71.45	New Zealand 3.20	Sweden 13.00
Cyprus 0.658	Ireland 1.152	Norway 12.37	Switzerland 2.43
Denmark 11.20	Israel 6.11	Portugal 287.42	Turkey 421,150
Finland 8.969	Italy 2,666	Saudi Arabia 6.18	USA 1.63
France 9.791			

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Digital bid may exclude Talk

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

RUPERT Murdoch's plan to elbow his way into commercial radio by backing a bid for Talk Radio yesterday clouded publication of plans to establish 10 new national digital radio stations spanning classical music, rock, dance, spoken word, comedy and sport.

It emerged last night that the Digital One consortium — which includes Talk Radio and submitted the sole application to run the digital service — covered itself with specific legal protections in case any of the partners come under new management.

Sources suggested that the Digital One shareholders — GWR with a controlling 57 per cent, cable firm NTL with 33 per cent and Talk Radio with 10 per cent — could effectively expel Talk Radio from the consortium if it falls to Kelvin MacKenzie. Mr Murdoch's News International has taken a 20 per cent stake in the MacKenzie bid for Talk Radio.

Mr MacKenzie — who quit Mirror Group to pitch for the station — is up against a management buyout bid supported by Lord Hollick's United News and Media.

The running battle for Talk Radio unhappily overshadowed the launch of Digital One's plans yesterday after it submitted its licence application to the Radio Authority unchallenged.

There have been fears about Mr Murdoch gaining a foothold on another digital gateway because of his potentially powerful position in digital television through his 40 per cent stake in BSkyB. However, GWR has made clear it would work with Mr Murdoch provided that it remained in overall control of Digital One.

Digital One said it plans to start broadcasting in October next year. Talk Radio is guaranteed one of the national stations — whatever the outcome of the bid — to broadcast its output simultaneously in digital.

Chris Evans' Virgin Radio and Classic FM — owned by GWR — are also guaranteed slots. Other services planned include an oldies rock station, a "female-based" contemporary music station, a club dance station, a drama, books and comedy station, a 24-hour news service and a sports channel which will also be provided by Talk Radio.

The CD-quality broadcasts will be supported by a text service. Digital car radios are expected to be on the market soon for around £300 while PC users will be able to buy a £200 soundcard to receive radio services.

Guardian sees record profits

Financial Staff

THE Guardian Media Group, which publishes the Guardian and the Observer, yesterday reported record financial results with profits before tax and exceptionals rising 76 per cent to £53 million in the year to the end of March.

The result, attributed to strong advertising growth, lower newsprint prices and tight cost control, came on the back of a 13 per cent increase in group sales to £368 million.

It compares with a £30.2 million pre-exceptional surplus in the preceding year.

After accounting for a £19.8 million charge in the year before, which related to the costs of closing the Guardian press centre and transferring printing to West Ferry after the Isle of Dogs bombing in early 1996, profits grew even more sharply, from £10.4 million to £53 million after exceptionals.

With profits rising swiftly and with capital expenditure in the year relatively modest, the group's net cash grew by £35 million, or 41 per cent, to £120 million.

Robert Gavron, chairman of GMG, said the strong financial performance had continued in the first quarter of the current year.

"The new year has started well, with firm advertising markets and stable newsprint prices.

"Although these conditions will not continue indefinitely, we enter the new financial year with confidence," he said.

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US appeal judges rule that Windows 95 system can be packaged with web-browser

Microsoft in Net victory

Mark Tran in New York

MICROSOFT yesterday won an important victory in its battle with the US government, when an appeals court threw out an injunction barring it from packaging its Internet browser with its ubiquitous Windows 95 computer-operating system.

The three appeals judges ruled that a lower court's injunction against Microsoft was improper and that the judge in the case, Thomas Jackson, made procedural and substantive mistakes.

Judge Jackson had ruled that Microsoft could not force computer makers who sell their hardware with Windows 95 to include its Internet Explorer browser alongside.

The US Justice Department claims that, by bundling its Internet browser to Windows 95, Microsoft broke a 1995 agreement.

The government had not requested the injunction but Judge Jackson issued it anyway, ordering Microsoft to decouple Internet Explorer from Windows 95. Microsoft appealed and came away with yesterday's decisive victory.

"The preliminary injunction was issued without adequate notice and on an erroneous reading" of the law, the appeals judges wrote.

In another rebuff to Judge Jackson, the appeals court dismissed from the case Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig, appointed as "special master," or expert, to report to the judge on important technical issues. Microsoft wanted Prof Lessig removed from the case, arguing that he was biased. The appeals court did not agree with the charge of bias but found the appointment "either a clear abuse of discretion or an exercise of wholly non-existent discretion."

Microsoft shares soared upon news of the decision.

Yesterday's ruling on Windows 95 does not directly affect the government's broader anti-monopolies case concerning Windows 98 — the Windows 95 successor. In that wider case, scheduled to start in September, the government and attorneys-general from 20 states allege that a primary goal of Microsoft in integrating its web browser with Windows 98 was to damage its small rival, Netscape Communications, in the browser wars.

The government wants Microsoft either to decouple Internet Explorer from Windows 98 or to incorporate Netscape's browser into Windows 98.

The government alleges that Microsoft uses its monopoly power to gain advantage in new markets, particularly the Internet.

But the appeals court ruling on Windows 95 will undoubtedly provide valuable ammunition for Microsoft in the broader competition case. In an opinion that could spell trouble for the government, the appeals court said that an "integrated product" was one that combined functions in an advantageous way for the purchaser, regardless of whether components were sold separately.

Microsoft has argued consistently that integrating the browser with the operating system was a natural progression, designed to benefit consumers. Microsoft is confident that it can prove this argument and prevail in the September trial.

The appeals court, dominated by economic conservatives, signalled its thinking on the Windows 95 case in a little-noticed ruling in May.

The three judges granted a technical motion sought by Microsoft and said that judges should not put themselves in the "unwelcome position of designing computers".

According to experts, this was clearly intended to warn Judge Jackson not to second-guess Microsoft's decision to embed Internet Explorer in Windows.



Robert Shapiro, head of Monsanto, right, listens to John Stafford, chief executive of troubled AHP, announcing the planned $96 billion merger of the two companies. AHP was later ordered to withdraw a new drug PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM NADEL

Troubled US firm told to withdraw 'super' drug

Julia Finch and Sarah Boseley

THE American Home Products drugs group was yesterday forced to withdraw a new pain relief drug after it was linked to four deaths and eight emergency liver transplants.

It is the fourth time in nine months that the increasingly accident-prone company, which is planning a $96 billion (£60 billion) merger with rival Monsanto, has been forced to take a drug off the market or withdraw an application for approval because of potentially fatal side effects.

Its Duract painkiller, launched last July and expected to generate sales in billions of dollars, was ordered off the market by the US Food and Drug Administration.

AHP is already facing class action and individual lawsuits that analysts estimate could cost up to $9 billion after side-effects linked to two anti-obesity drugs. It was first alerted to potential problems with Duract in December, when a patient had to be given a liver transplant.

In February the FDA put a "black box" warning on the Duract label stating that some patients who had taken the drug for more than 10 days were developing liver problems including jaundice, hepatitis and liver failure.

Later that month a patient died of liver problems and three more fatalities have since followed.

The FDA ordered AHP to withdraw the drug after concerns that, despite the warning, some doctors were still prescribing Duract for more than 10 days.

It also advised patients with half-used packs of the tablets to throw them away. The company is understood to have complied immediately without protest.

A spokesman for AHP said the liver damage appeared to affect one in 20,000 patients, which meant the problem was undetectable prior to full-scale marketing.

A spokesman for the FDA said a trial of more than 100,000 patients would be necessary to have picked up the potential problem — far in excess of the numbers used in any clinical trials.

Last September AHP was forced to withdraw Redux and Pondimin, two medications which had been commonly used in a diet drug cocktail called Fen-Phen, after they were linked to potentially fatal heart problems.

In January, when AHP was attempting to merge with the UK's SmithKline Beecham — before SmithKline's aborted attempt to merge with UK rival Glaxo Wellcome — lawyers were working on a complicated plan to ring-fence or insure against the potential multi-billion dollar liabilities that could emerge.

In March the company, which is based in Madison, New Jersey, was also forced to withdraw an application for approval for Verdia, a blood pressure medication after it was also linked to liver problems.

Besides these recent problems, AHP is also facing claims from users of its controversial Norplant contraceptive implant, which has been linked to various negative side effects, including personality changes.

It is not known whether AHP had filed for marketing approval of Duract in the UK, as Britain's Medicines Control Agency operates behind a far greater veil of secrecy than the FDA.

Manufacturers of successful drugs generally do apply to sell their treatments worldwide, however.

Selfridges 'was like a Grace Bros'

Roger Cowe

SELFRIDGES' chief executive Vittorio Radice yesterday hit out at owners Sears, for allowing the store to decline in the 1970s and 1980s.

Launching the demerger which will see Selfridges become a separately quoted company, he said years of underinvestment had left the store facing a £120 million spending programme which was denting profits just as it came to the stock market.

"It was very much a Grace Bros operation. There was very little investment for 20 years until 1992, because Sears didn't know what to do with the store," he said.

The demerger was launched against a background of grim sales figures which led to shares in the parent company dropping by 8 per cent. Freemans mail order and womenswear sales are 2 to 3 per cent higher than last year but takings at the Adams children's chain are more than 6 per cent lower.

Mr Radice acknowledged that this was a difficult time to be achieving independence from the retailer which has owned it since the 1960s. But he stressed that Sears shareholders had pressed for the break-up of the conglomerate, which has already sold its shoe empire and will float the Freemans mail order business later this year.

"There's no doubt the timing is not perfect," he said, after reporting that sales in the central London store were 4 per cent lower than last year.

The store is in the middle of a £99 million refurbishment and is investing £20 million in its second premises, which will open in Manchester in September. The investments, together with a fall of a third in tourist customers from Asia, cut last year's profit by nearly half.

Despite the dismal background, Mr Radice insisted that independence would be good. "People will benefit from better performance," he said.

Mr Radice and Mr Williams stand to gain shares worth six times their salaries if the company's performance is in the top quarter of retailers over a seven-year period. Their salaries are £225,000 and £125,000 respectively.

● Kingfisher, the Comet and Woolworths conglomerate, yesterday took control of BUT, a French electrical chain.

News in brief

Orange launches UK videophone

ORANGE, the mobile-phone operator, tried to boost its subscriber base yesterday with pledges on prices and products, including Britain's first portable videophone.

Claiming its subscribers had increased by 20 per cent in the year to May, the group said it had capacity to spare for the service, for which handsets would cost between £500 and £600. Shares closed at a record high of 605p, up 54p. — *Simon Beavis*

British Energy merger

BRITISH Energy, operator of the UK's eight most modern nuclear power stations, announced the merger of Scottish Nuclear and *Nuclear Electric, uniting its operations in England and Scotland.* The move is intended to provide a more cost-effective base for north American joint-ventures and acquisitions, and is expected to secure annual savings of between £5 million and £10 million, and cost between 50 and 100 managerial jobs. — *Celia Weston*

Recession alarm

CARPETRIGHT, Britain's biggest carpet retailer, added to fears of a recession on the high street when chief executive Lord Harris warned: "Trading conditions were the worst I have ever experienced, and I have been in the business for 40 years."

The veteran shopkeeper and Tory party fundraiser warned that profits from the group's 233 stores fell from £32.2 million to £29.2 million in the year to May 2. — *Tony May*

Mis-selling jitters

HOGG Robinson unnerved the market when it announced a £10 million provision to cover the second stage of the pensions mis-selling review. Shares in the travel and financial services group fell nearly 10 per cent to 289p. Hogg Robinson said its pre-tax, pre-exceptionals profit for the year was up 15 per cent to £29.4 million. — *Jill Treanor*

Nissan-Daimler deal

THE pace of global restructuring in the auto industry quickened yesterday when Nissan, Japan's ailing motor manufacturer, said it hoped to conclude a co-operation deal with Germany's Daimler-Benz. Nissan's president, Yoshikazu Hanawa, said that the deal with Daimler on selling its 39.8 per cent stake in truck-maker Nissan Diesel could be agreed by July. — *David Gow*

CBI chief hits at anti-euro group

Mark Atkinson and Larry Elliott

THE growing split in Britain's boardrooms over the single currency was highlighted last night when Lord Marshall, the outgoing president of the Confederation of British Industry, launched a strong attack on industry's anti-monetary union splinter group.

In his last big speech as president of the employers' organisation, Sir Colin hit out at the newly-formed Business for Sterling group, which is campaigning for the pound to stay out of the euro-zone.

Lord Marshall said the group — led by Lord Marsh, the former Labour Cabinet minister — should stop carping about the sampling techniques used in CBI surveys which showed a majority of the business community in favour of the single currency.

Speaking at a CBI banquet in Birmingham, Sir Colin said: "Whatever happens, whether Britain joins EMU or stays out, one thing is absolutely certain: British companies, in every sector and at every level, must be ready to deal and trade in the single currency when it becomes a hard and fast commercial reality in six months."

Joint CBI and British Chambers of Commerce polls have shown that more than half of their members favour joining the euro under the right circumstances, with only around 20 per cent opposed to the single currency in any circumstances.

The Business for Sterling group has argued that the surveys include only those companies which bother to reply to questionnaires, excluding a silent majority in favour of retaining the pound.

Sir Colin insisted, however: "Three successive annual surveys, two of them conducted jointly with the BCC, have concluded that a clear majority of business is in favour of the principle of Britain joining EMU when the time is right. Of course, there were and are companies who stand against the idea, and others sit on the fence — but the general direction of opinion is clear."

● The European Commission yesterday called for the appointment of a counterpart to the US treasury secretary so that Europe could take its proper role in global financial management, *writes Martin Walker in Brussels.*

Financial affairs commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy told the European parliament that last week's intervention by US and Japanese authorities to support the yen took place without Europe even being informed. "Europe has not played a political role to match its weight on the world's economic and financial scene," he said.

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In the World Cup sports section



France 98

Italy and Chile through 14
Bucharest goes wild 16
Shearer leans towards partnership with Owen 16



Foot fault
Rusedski limps into action at Wimbledon
20

The Guardian Sport
Wednesday June 24 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

France 98

Heads, you win . . .Scotland's inspirational captain Colin Hendry gets the better of Salaheddine Bassir, the scorer of two of Morocco's goals, in an aerial dispute last night PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS BACON

Group A: Scotland 0 Morocco 3

Sad Scotland down and out

Morocco cruelly fail to qualify for second round as Norway win

Patrick Glenn in St Etienne sees two World Cup dreams end in sweat and tears

A CURSE that has ingrained itself in the psyche of Scotland World Cup squads for 44 years refused stubbornly to be budged last night. At the Stade Geoffroy Guichard history was not made, but merely repeated.

Morocco's goals, scored by Salaheddine Bassir in the first half and Abdeljilil Hadda 90 seconds into the second followed by Bassir again five minutes from the end hinted at a humiliation. To cap it all Craig Burley was sent off after 54 minutes.

Bassir completed his double by skinning Tom Boyd and driving the ball in off Colin Hendry from 12 yards as the Scots looked dead on their feet. But Morocco's famous victory was not sufficient for them to advance as Norway's last-minute penalty for a 2-1 win against Brazil in Marseille deprived the North Africans of a second-round place.

Ironically Craig Brown's team chose to produce their worst performance of the series against opponents who were reputed to be the weakest in the group.

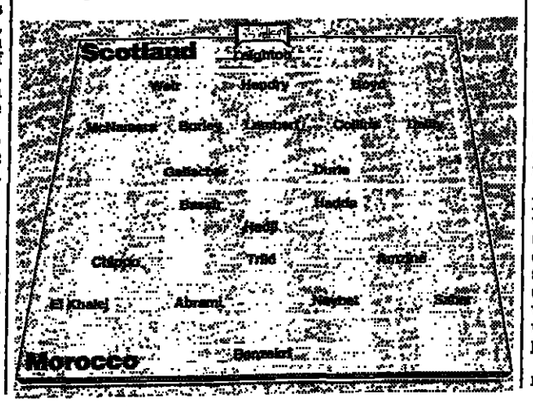
It was a night when Scotland's players were required to be as resourceful as their supporters who, with echoes of Biblical loaves and fishes, had contrived to stretch a meagre official-allocation of 2,500 tickets to around 15,000, giving the Tartan Army a clear majority inside the stadium.

But by the time Bassir gave Morocco the lead, after 22 minutes, the Scots had failed to produce enough menace to justify the deep confidence they had exuded in the days leading up to this showdown.

They did demonstrate composure and a sureness of touch in midfield for much of the time, traits that have typified their play since the start of the tournament, but that lack of a genuine threat was another characteristic they had hoped to lose for a match in which they regarded victory as imperative.

This may have been partly planned, as Brown and some of his players had spoken of the need to be patient, to keep possession and to force the opposition into chasing shadows in the hope of taking advantage later in the match, when the North African side were expected to run short of fuel. But it was the Scots who looked one-paced when they conceded that goal.

It was the simplest of moves, but it was completed with a deadly shot from Bassir. Taher El Khalej carried the ball towards the halfway line and suddenly released a long lob, carrying over the head of Hendry and dropping into the path of the rushing Bassir.



From 10 yards to the left of goal, the Moroccan striker hit a fierce but beautifully controlled left-foot volley past Jim Leighton.

Even the Moroccans in the crowd seemed for an instant to be stunned, as there had been little promise of such a devastating moment. Gordon Durie had come closest to producing a goal when he reached John Collins's searching free-kick and with Driss Benzekri committed and stranded, glanced his header wide of an empty net.

The goal, predictably, seemed to energise the game, with Scotland now facing the chore they had been forced to confront in their two previous outings — a need to come from behind.

In the 15 minutes that followed Bassir's goal there were signs that the exertion of pressure in forward areas could yield a reward. Durie started to produce the evidence with a 30-yard drive which swerved only a foot wide of Benzekri's right-hand post.

Craig Burley, of whom so much was expected in midfield, had been curiously ineffective until the the 33rd minute, when he played a good ball into Durie from the left and the Rangers striker delivered a centre that looked bound for Kevin Gallacher's head.

The Blackburn striker was challenged by Nourredine Naybet and the header was blocked, a fate that also befell Collins's shot as he followed up on the loose ball.

By that stage there were clear indications that Scotland could trouble Benzekri and the goalkeeper was summoned to duty once again by Burley, this time when the Celtic midfielder took possession on the right side of the penalty area and, in clear space, had time to set himself for the drive from 15 yards.

The ball was struck low and true, but the Morocco goalkeeper stood his ground and managed to deflect it for the corner kick. It was during that spell that Burley, Lambert and Collins took ownership of the midfield and contrived most of the problems for the Moroccans.

But the creeping unease over the Scots' tendency to throw men forward and leave themselves vulnerable at the back turned to numbing reality when that second goal was scored.

It was almost a replica of the first, this time with Moustapha Hadji supplying the long ball over the head of David Weir. It was Hadda who reached it and tried to lob Leighton.

The veteran goalkeeper stretched and managed to push the ball into the air, but it dropped over the line before he could retrieve it. It was the moment that every Scot in the stadium realised that another great expectation would be frustrated.

Burley's dismissal soon after — no argument with this decision — merely applied the finishing touch to an experience that will be entered in the debit column of Scotland's World Cup ledger, along with all the others.

SUBSTITUTIONS Scotland: T McKinlay for McNamara, 54min; Booth for Durie, 84. **Morocco:** Rossi for Saber, 72; Azzouzi for Amzine, 77, Sellami for Chippo, 87.
SENT OFF Scotland: Burley.
BOOKED Scotland: Gallacher.
Morocco: Chippo.
REFEREE: Ali Mohamed Bujsaim (UAE).

DAY 15

Group C

France v Denmark
- Venue Lyon
- Kick-off 8.00pm BST
- Referee Pierluigi Collini (Italy)
- Last five meetings
  1990 France 1-1 Denmark
  1988 1-3
  1986 1-0
  1976 1-0
  1974 2-0
- Injuries None
- Suspended Zinedine Zidane (France), Morten Wieghorst, Marc Rieper (Denmark)
- On a yellow card Didier Deschamps, Emmanuel Petit, Laurent Blanc, Bixente Lizarazu (France), Allan Nielsen, Marc Rieper, Peter Schmeichel, Michael Schjonberg, Jes Hogh (Denmark)

Live on BBC1 from 2.45pm
Live on ITV from 7.30pm

South Africa v Saudi Arabia
- Venue Bordeaux
- Kick-off 5.00pm BST
- Referee Mario Sanchez Yanten (Chile)
- Previous meetings None
- Injuries None
- Suspended Alfred Phiri (South Africa), Mohammed Al-Deayea (Saudi Arabia)
- On a yellow card William Jackson, David Nyathi, Pierre Issa, Lucas Radebe (South Africa)-Khalid Al-Muwallid, Sami Al-Jaber (Saudi Arabia)

Live on Eurosport from 2.00pm

Group D

Spain v Bulgaria
- Venue Lens
- Kick-off 5.00pm BST
- Referee Mario Van Der Ende (Spain)
- Previous meetings
  1990 Spain 1-1 Bulgaria
  1986 2-0
  1962 13-0
- Injuries None
- Suspended Andoni Nankov (Bulgaria)
- On a yellow card Guillermo Amor, Miguel Angel Nadal, Ivan Campo, Sergi Barjuan, Kiko (Spain), Trifon Ivanov, Hristo Stoichkov, Ilian Iliev, Radostin Kishishev (Bulgaria)

Live on ITV from 7.00pm

Nigeria v Paraguay
- Venue Toulouse
- Kick-off 8.00pm BST
- Referee Pirom Un-Prasert (Thailand)
- Previous meetings None
- Injuries Paraguay's attacking midfielders Roberto Acuna and Miguel Benitez are expected to recover from knocks picked up against Spain.
- Suspended Victor Ikpeba (Nigeria)
- On a yellow card Augustine Okocha, Victor Ikpeba, Mutiu Adepoju (Nigeria), Miguel Benitez, Celso Ayala, Francisco Arce (Paraguay)

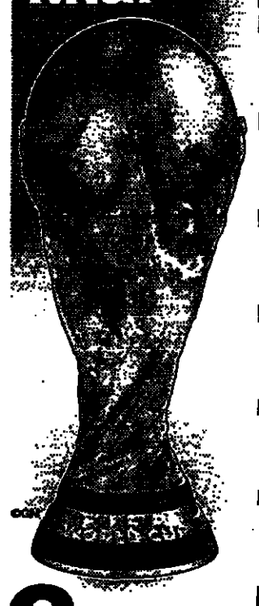
Live on Eurosport from 7.30pm

Special kick-off time!
Two goals in Spain v Bulgaria with 10 points for a winner and 25 for a draw. The Sporting Index spread is at 55-60.

Yesterday's results

Chile 1	Cameroon 1
Sierra 21	Mboma 55
Attendance: 39,000	
Italy 2	Austria 1

Road to the final



A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Norway	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Morocco	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

Wed, June 10 - St-Denis
Brazil 2
Cesar Sampaio 4, Boyd (og) 73
Scotland 1
Collins (pen) 38
Attendance: 80,000

Wed, June 10 - Montpellier
Morocco 2
Hadji 38, Hadda 59
Norway 2
Chippo (og) 45, Eggen 82
Attendance: 28,750

Sat, June 13 - Bordeaux
Scotland 1
Burley 67
Norway 1
H Flo 46
Attendance: 30,256

Sat, June 13 - Nantes
Brazil 3
Ronaldo 9, Rivaldo 45, Bebeto 50
Morocco 0
Attendance: 33,255

Tue, June 23 - Marseille
Brazil
Norway

Tue, June 23 - St-Etienne
Scotland
Morocco

B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	1	1	0	7	3	7
Chile	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Austria	2	0	2	1	3	4	2
Cameroon	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

Thu, June 11 - Bordeaux
Italy 2
Vieri 10, R Baggio (pen) 85
Chile 2
Salas 45, 50
Attendance: 31,800

Thu, June 11 - Toulouse
Cameroon 1
Njanka 77
Austria 1
Polster 90
Attendance: 37,500

Fri, June 12 - St-Etienne
Chile 1
Salas 70
Austria 1
Vastic 90
Attendance: 36,000

Fri, June 12 - Montpellier
Italy 3
Di Biagio 8, Vieri 75, 88
Cameroon 0
Attendance: 35,000

Tue, June 23 - St-Denis
Italy 2
Vieri 46, R Baggio 90
Austria 1
Herzog (pen) 90
Attendance: 75,000

Tue, June 23 - Nantes
Chile 1
Sierra 27
Cameroon 1
Mboma 58
Attendance: 38,000

C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
S Africa	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
S Arabia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Fri, June 12 - Lens
Saudi Arabia 0
Denmark 1
Riiper 68
Attendance: 38,140

Fri, June 12 - Marseille
France 3
Dugarry 35, Issa (og) 76, Henry 90
South Africa 0
Attendance: 55,077

Thu, June 18 - Toulouse
South Africa 1
McCarthy 52
Denmark 1
Nielsen 13
Attendance: 36,500

Thu, June 18 - St-Denis
France 4
Henry 36, 77, Trezeguet 68, Lizarazu 85
Saudi Arabia 0
Attendance: 75,000

Wed, June 24 - Bordeaux (6pm)
France
Denmark

Wed, June 24 - Toulouse (6pm)
South Africa
Saudi Arabia

D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Paraguay	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Spain	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Sat, June 13 - Montpellier
Paraguay 0
Bulgaria 0
Attendance: 27,650

Sat, June 13 - Nantes
Spain 2
Hierro 21, Raul 47
Nigeria 3
Adepoju 24, Lawal 73, Olisah 79
Attendance: 33,257

Fri, June 19 - Paris
Nigeria 1
Tipoba 27
Bulgaria 0
Attendance: 48,500

Fri, June 19 - St-Etienne
Spain 0
Paraguay 0
Attendance: 35,300

Wed, June 24 - Lens (6pm)
Spain
Bulgaria

Wed, June 24 - Toulouse (8pm)
Nigeria
Paraguay

E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Mexico	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
S Korea	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Sat, June 13 - Lyon
South Korea 1
Ha Seok-Ju 25
Mexico 3
Pelaez 51, Hernandez 75, 84
Attendance: 37,686

Sat, June 13 - St-Denis
Holland 0
Belgium 0
Attendance: 75,000

Sat, June 20 - Bordeaux
Belgium 2
Wilmots 43, 48
Mexico 2
Garcia Aspe 58 (pen), Blanco 63
Attendance: 34,750

Sat, June 20 - Montpellier
Holland 5
Cocu 37, Overmars 41, Bergkamp 71, Van Hooijdonk 79, R De Boer 83
South Korea 0
Attendance: 60,000

Thu, June 25 - St-Etienne (6pm)
Holland
Mexico

Thu, June 25 - Paris (8pm)
Belgium
South Korea

F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Iran	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
US	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Sat, June 14 - St-Etienne
Yugoslavia 1
Mihajlovic 73
Iran 0
Attendance: 30,392

Mon, June 15 - Paris
Germany 2
Möller 8, Klinsmann 65
United States 0
Attendance: 43,875

Sat, June 21 - Lens
Germany 2
Mihajlovic (og) 73, Bierhoff 80
Yugoslavia 2
Mijatovic 13, Stojkovic 54
Attendance: 40,775

Sun, June 21 - Lyon
United States 1
McBride 87
Iran 2
Estili 40, Mahdavikia 84
Attendance: 44,000

Wed, June 24 - Montpellier (6pm)
Germany
Iran

Thu, June 25 - Nantes (6pm)
United States
Yugoslavia

G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
England	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Colombia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Mon, June 15 - Marseille
England 2
Shearer 42, Scholes 90
Tunisia 0
Attendance: 54,587

Mon, June 15 - Lyon
Romania 1
Ilie 46
Colombia 0
Attendance: 37,572

Tue, June 23 - Montpellier
Colombia 1
Preciado 83
Tunisia 0
Attendance: 35,000

Tue, June 23 - Toulouse
Romania 2
Moldovan 47, Petrescu 90
England 1
Owen 83
Attendance: 37,500

Fri, June 26 - St-Denis (6pm)
Romania
Tunisia

Fri, June 26 - Lens (8pm)
Colombia
England

H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Croatia	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Japan	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Jamaica	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Sun, June 14 - Toulouse
Argentina 1
Batistuta 28
Japan 0
Attendance: 33,400

Sun, June 14 - Lens
Jamaica 1
Earle 45
Croatia 3
Stanic 27, Prosinecki 53, Suker 69
Attendance: 38,058

Sun, June 21 - Nantes
Japan 0
Croatia 1
Suker 77
Attendance: 39,000

Sun, June 21 - Paris
Argentina 5
Ortega 32, 55 Batistuta 73, 79, 83 (pen)
Jamaica 0
Attendance: 48,500

Wed, June 24 - Bordeaux (8pm)
Argentina
Croatia

Thu, June 25 - Lyon (6pm)
Japan
Jamaica

SECOND ROUND

GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3	GAME 4
Sat, June 27 - Paris (8pm)	Sat, June 27 - Montpellier (5.30pm)	Sat, June 28 - Lens (5.30pm)	Sun, June 28 - St-Denis (8pm)
Brazil	Italy	Group C winners	Nigeria
Chile	Group A runners-up	Group D runners-up	Group C runners-up

GAME 5	GAME 6	GAME 7	GAME 8
Mon, June 29 - Toulouse (8pm)	Tue, June 30 - Bordeaux (5.30pm)	Tue, June 30 - St-Etienne (8pm)	Wed, July 1 - Marseille (8pm)
Group E winners	Group F winners	Group G winners	Group H winners
Group F runners-up	Group E runners-up	Group H runners-up	Group G runners-up

QUARTER FINALS

GAME A	GAME B	GAME C	GAME D
Fri, July 3 - Nantes (8pm)	Fri, July 3 - St-Denis (12.30am)	Sat, July 4 - Montpellier (12.30am)	Sat, July 4 - Lyon (8pm)
Game 1 winners	Game 2 winners	Game 5 winners	Game 6 winners
Game 4 winners	Game 3 winners	Game 8 winners	Game 7 winners

SEMI FINALS

Tue, July 7 - Marseille (8pm)	Wed, July 8 - St-Denis (8pm)
Game A winners	Game E winners
Game C winners	Game D winners

3RD/4TH PLACE PLAY-OFF

Sat, July 11 - Paris (8pm)
Losers of first semi-final
Losers of second semi-final

FINAL

Sunday, July 12 - St-Denis (8pm)

Winner of **first** semi-final
Winner of **second** semi-final

ALL TIMES BST

France 98

Group B: Italy 2 Austria 1

Vieri and Baggio the silent assassins as Italy saunter to their objective

Ian Ross in St-Denis sees unlovable Austria start physically and end with painful defeat

THE tournament has only just reached half-way, yet those who wear frowns rather than boots are as much concerned with positioning for the later stages as with goals and tactics.

By defeating Austria at a strangely subdued, often silent, Stade de France here yesterday, Italy moved into the second round as group winners thus ensuring they would not collide — yet — with Brazil; an undoubted blessing for the Azzurri who have yet to find their touch. This is not a great Italian side, more a proficient one.

"We are happy to have gone through and happy to have done so as group winners. But harder tasks lie ahead," said Italy's coach Cesare Maldini.

Austrian football holds precious little subtlety and with the odds stacked against them Herbert Prohaska's men did not hesitate to remove the iron fist — and feet — from the velvet glove of convenience.

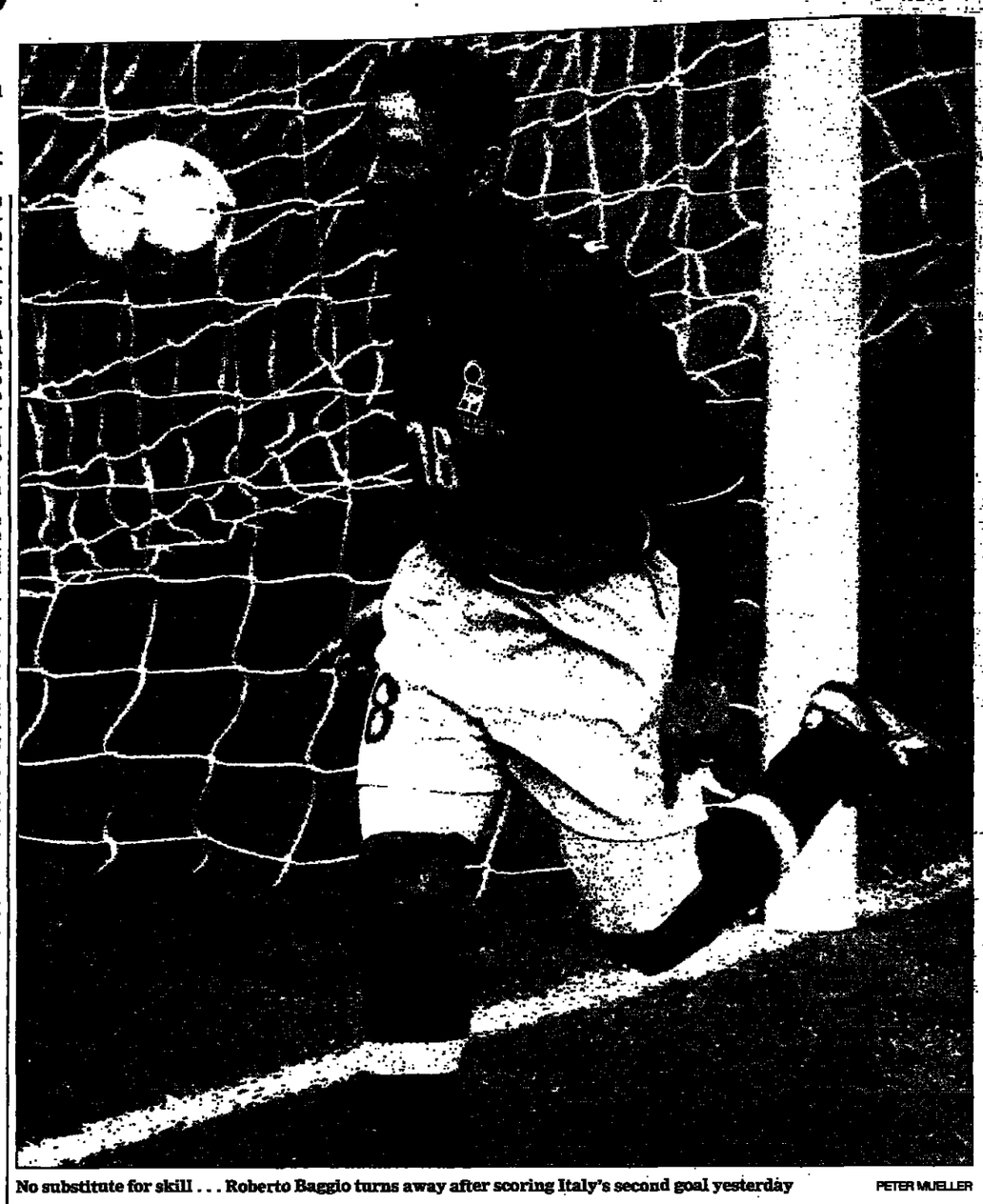
Early on, as the blood surged, the stadium reverberated to the sound of falling Italians as metal met mettle. The man in the midst of the mayhem was England's Paul Durkin, hardly one to shirk responsibilities or fall for the tricks of old dogs or young pups.

The referee was reaching for his breast pocket inside two minutes, cautioning Austria's Wolfgang Feiersinger for remonstrating with Alessandro Nesta for his part in a collision which brought Helmo Pfeifenberger to his knees.

The venomous rebuke Nesta delivered was to be his last contribution; he was carted away with a knee ligament injury which ended his afternoon and his tournament. "Nesta is out of the World Cup," Maldini said afterwards. "He will take no further part."

The Austrians also saw fit to remind Paolo Maldini and Christian Vieri that the final game of the opening phase was no place for pleasantries. It was grim, awkward stuff enlivened only by a series of powerful counter-attacks by Italy, who swept effortlessly from penalty area to penalty area in search of a breakthrough.

When not ruffling the Italians' beautifully groomed feathers, Austria gamely chased the victory they needed to avoid a swift journey home. Often they looked capable of breaching European football's most secure barricade but the instinct was always to play safe rather than gamble, to stick rather than twist.



No substitute for skill . . . Roberto Baggio turns away after scoring Italy's second goal yesterday PETER MUELLER

Match stats

	Ital	Aus
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	2	2
Attempts off target	4	6
Corners	3	7
Fouls	19	21
Offsides	9	2
Bookings	1	3

While largely outplayed, Austria fashioned the best opening of a wretched first half. Hannes Reinmayer's break from central midfield and pass to his right all but undid Italy but Toni Polster delayed too long his shot, ultimately striking only the outstretched leg of the substitute Giuseppe Bergomi.

When not being hounded out of his gorgeous natural rhythm by the Austrian bully boys — something Durkin sadly neglected to punish — Alessandro Del Piero was at the sharp end of all Italy's better moments. But he was out of luck and, mostly, out of the penalty area.

Del Piero is far, far more than just a predator, he is an astute footballer and three minutes into a more vigorous second half he was hauled down — for the fifth time — by Peter Schöttel.

The angle was unsympathetic but even so Del Piero would have been expected to shoot rather than cross. He knew that was what Austria expected so, instead, he clipped his free-kick into the six-yard box where Vieri rose to head home his fourth goal of the competition.

Austria's response was probably more robust and purposeful than Italy had anticipated. With pressure and possession came chances and Austria almost dragged themselves level on 66 minutes when Arnold Wetl's overhead kick was saved at the second attempt by Gianluca Pagliuca.

It was to be a brief revival in fortune, although Andreas Herzog's penalty maintained Austria's remarkable record of having scored in the final minute of each of their three games.

The problem was 60 seconds before Herzog steered his kick home Roberto Baggio, on as a substitute, had put Italy two ahead, turning in a Filippo Inzaghi cross from close range.

Austria had been sent packing; their passing will be mourned by few.

SUBSTITUTIONS Italy: Bergomi for Nesta, 4min, Inzaghi for Vieri, 61; R Baggio for Del Piero, 73.
Austria: Haas for Polster, 62; Stöger for Kühbauer, 74; Herzog for Pfeifenberger, 79.
BOOKED Italy: Maldini.
Austria: Feiersinger, Vastic, Schöttel.
REFEREE: P Durkin (England)

Durkin digs out four yellows and a penalty

AT TIMES Paul Durkin was the most active man on the pitch, and it did his chances of being given a second game no harm at all.

The Dorset referee flashed the yellow card four times, three at Austrians and one at an Italian, the first coming after only two minutes for a complaint by Wolfgang Feiersinger about Alessandro Nesta's tackle which ended the Italian defender's World Cup.

Yellow cards were also issued for cumbersome first-half fouls by Ivica Vastic and Peter Schöttel before Paolo Maldini completed the quartet in the 86th minute.

Austria's coach Herbert Prohaska, however, was not happy, despite being awarded a dubious late penalty. He said the free-kick which produced Italy's first goal should not have been given and added that a foul was missed during the build-up for the second.

Official rating

Yellow Cards	4
Red Cards	0
Fouls given	40
Fouls not given	6
Handballs given	0
Handballs not given	1
Offsides given	11
Offsides not given	3
Penalties given	1
Penalties not given	1
Played advantage	4

*Data supplied by Carling Opta based on televised evidence

Chile 1 Cameroon 1

Chile too hot as Lions see red

Robert Kitson in Nantes on nine-man Cameroon's departure in a cloud of anger

SOME contests are destined to be fiery, and emotions stirred by Chile's arrival in the World Cup knock-out mix for the first time since 1962 could not disguise the loud rumblings inside the Cameroon dressing-room after this rollicking game of missed chances and multi-coloured cards.

Stopping just short of accusing the game's rulers of legalised daylight robbery, the coach of the Indomitable Lions, Claude Le Roy, launched a scatter-gun attack on the new Fifa president Sepp Blatter after watching his side suffer two disallowed 'goals' and finish with only nine men.

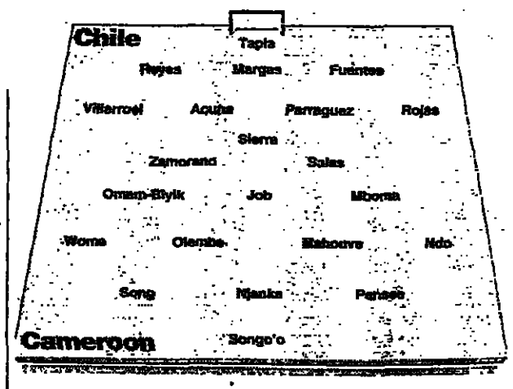
Particularly bitter at the decision to rule out what appeared to be a perfectly good second-half effort by his captain Francois Omam-Biyik for a barely discernible push by Patrick Mboma in the build-up, Le Roy was not in any hurry to congratulate the Chileans on reaching the second round.

"I'm very sorry we have been eliminated on the basis of an incompetent decision," he rasped. "I don't want to say anything about the red cards, but if Mr Blatter is watching he should know we can't understand why our second 'goal' was ruled out. Blatter should listen more to Michel Platini, who knows more about football, and stick to administration. Our players cannot understand it. I hope Fifa will draw a lesson from it."

The Hungarian referee had already dismissed the extrovert defender Rigobert Song for his second bookable offence, an elbow in the face of Marcelo Salas, and dismissed the substitute Lavriano Etame in the 89th minute when Salas was scythed down again.

The sendings-off provoked riots in the Cameroon capital Yaounde as black fans vented their anger on whites. Police used water cannon to disperse an angry crowd outside a supermarket who were chanting "Whites don't like us," in protest at the white referee's handling of the game.

With four Chileans booked, three of whom will miss Saturday's encounter with Brazil in Paris, the 21st-minute free-kick curled into the top corner from 25 yards by Jose Luis Sierra's left foot did not receive the post-match acclaim it deserved.



Match stats

	Chile	Cam
Possession	50%	50%
Attempts on target	1	1
Attempts off target	4	8
Corners	7	5
Fouls	8	17
Offsides	5	3
Bookings	4	1
Sendings-off	0	2

One can only hazard what Cameroon might have accomplished with a little more discipline. As against Italy, they paid a heavy price for diving in where seasoned professionals dip their toes, and Song's name was in the book as early as the eighth minute.

Song's decision to wear one red and one yellow boot was surely tempting fate, and he could have walked for the two-footed lunge on Ivan Zamarano which yielded Sierra's bending free-kick. Omam-Biyik had a potential equaliser ruled out for offside and although Salas had a shot kicked off the line by Joseph Ndo, it was Cameroon who produced the better chances.

Mboma went close on three occasions before his powerful header in the 56th minute, shortly after Song's departure, gave 10-man Cameroon a genuine sniff. In addition to his second disallowed effort, which he branded later as "unjust", Omam-Biyik hit the side-netting in the 74th minute and it was Chile who were hanging on by the end.

The most bizarre threat to the South Americans yesterday came from two right-wing German extremists arrested at the stadium gates carrying baseball bats, an apparent result of messages on the Internet for like-minded lunatics to spill a few pints of Chilean red.

SUBSTITUTIONS Chile: Cornejo for Villarroel, 71min, Estay for Sierra, 71; Ramirez for Rojas, 77.
Cameroon: Ngundjol for Olembe, 69; Tcheni for Job, 73; Etame for Ndo, 85.
SENT OFF: Cameroon: Song, Etame
BOOKED Chile: Parraguez, Rojas, Villarroel, Ramirez.
Cameroon: Song.
REFEREE: L Vagner (Hungary).

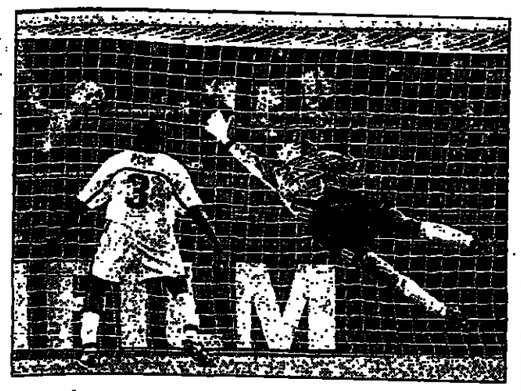
صكناس الاصل

صكذا من الاصل

France 98

Ed Vulliamy on how the supporters of the United States, with their infectious enthusiasm, have added a dash of colour to their team's unsuccessful World Cup campaign

Old glory, glory days for Sam's Army





Friendly rivalry . . . an American supporter greets his Iranian counterpart before last Sunday's match; on the left Iran score the first of their two goals MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: GERALD CERLES

Ageing pony-tailed Vietnam vets pass the litmus test

THEY ARE Uncle Sam's Barmy Army — called Sam's Army, or just "The Sammers" — and, as they put it, they "kick grass".

They wear red T-shirts, blue wigs, face-paint and drape themselves in Old Glory. They make a lot of noise, have a lot of tattoos and drink a lot of beer; at a recent game against Jamaica two lads from Chicago had T-shirts that read "Shut Up and Drink Your Beer". But they don't fight, they think that is plain dumb.

Like their United States team, they are young, keen and haphazard. Their favourite chant is Queen's "We will, We will, Rock you". They love to party and hang around the ground for ages before and after games — often having travelled vast distances.

Sam's Army is the spearhead of football's newest and fastest-growing constituency, the game's last unconquered land. Founded three years ago by Mark and Chris Spacone, two brothers from Buffalo, it has 6,000 registered but ragtaggle members and a larger, swelling number of hangers-on who consider the Sammers the cool crowd to hang out with.

"We turn heads wherever we go," says Mark. "People want to be part of the group. They can see that we've done nothing but promote the game in a positive light."

The difference between Sam's Army and other groups of fans unfurling their flags in France is that this lot shout, jump around and sing in a country where going to a match is a more sedate and sedentary family affair. They undertake long journeys by Greyhound bus or plane in a sports culture where "away travel" is almost unknown.

Most important, Sam's Army spearheads the fans' side of the bargain in World Cup history's most curious deal: Fifa's condition in giving the last World Cup — the most successful ever, financially — to the United States was that the country initiate a professional league.

It was not the first try; there had been the attempt in the 1970s when Pele played for New York Cosmos and Rodney Marsh for Tampa Bay Rowdies.

But that time the received wisdom won out over the belief that if America did not invent it it must be un-American. Not enough scoring, not enough statistics, not enough crashing and banging, not enough time out for commercials.

Sam's Army are regular, working-class, non-Hispanic kids (the Hispanics go anyway but do not support the US, the litmus test of how American soccer is catching on), who cannot afford the multi-thousand dollar all-in packages upon which tickets are conditional.

> The locker-room pin-up is the Galaxy's Cobi Jones, who has a part in Beverly Hills 92010

People such Jimmy S Todriff of Bartlett, Illinois, a fan of Chicago Fire and Metallica, has travelled 14,000 miles to take in eight US home internationals. He wanted to incorporate the World Cup into an ambitious hitch-hike with his buddies, sleeping rough.

"Forget it," he shrugs, buying another Pete's Wicked Summer Brew instead. "No match tickets unless I stay at some Sofitel in Lyon."

Sam's Army has a "Battle Brigade", with its flag — a skull and crossbones. They are a crowd of ageing, ponytailed Vietnam Vets who have seen too much real violence to want to be like the idiots from England.

Attendances for Major League Soccer speak for themselves: 92,216 for LA Galaxy versus Tampa Bay Mutiny — the biggest crowd ever at an American sporting match.

Crowds for the Galaxy often peak at 60,000. There were 79,000 for a recent all-star game at Giants Stadium — the biggest sports crowd ever in that ground, and second only to the Pope (82,000).

The average gate across the 10-team MLS is just over 34,000 — and the average age is well below that in Europe. Around 18 million young Americans now play football, half of them girls.

The United States has something in common with Iran. Just as Iranian women are campaigning to go to football matches, so women are at the core of America's new fans. "Soccer Mom" has already become an electoral constituency in the calculations of Washington's spin doctors. The marketing men usually know best what is going down in any society, and L'Oreal shampoo decided to deploy the silver-blue eyes and flowing locks of previously unknown David Ginola in its American market-place.

Female fans of New England Revolution have a website featuring players' "butts of the week". Television commercials for MLS games dub them "Lessons in passion" and one of those, Striptease Lessons, features well-known players peeling off their shirts. The main locker-room pin-up is the Galaxy's Cobi Jones, whose good looks and henna dreadlocks got him his own show on MTV, Megadose, and a part in Beverly Hills 92010.

But Jones has no illusions about the sport's minority status: "I'll give Michael Jordan a year of lessons," he says, "we'll see if he can pick it up".

Michel Platini typifies Old World snobbery against US football. He does not like all this, nor does he like penalty shoot-outs after every draw and statistics such as "goal assists" or "fouls against".

"The Americans discovered soccer four years ago," says the Sun King of France 98, "and already they're changing the rules." As for Ginola, he won't make the French team, says Platini, "because L'Oreal isn't picking it".

Not all the sexy stuff is for the ladies. For the lads, there are the five million condoms released for sale in special boxes emblazoned with a picture of Footix the cockerel, the World Cup tournament's mascot, on them.

Colombia's hairy swinger in mood to lead England a merry dance

Triumph over Tunisia gives Valderrama new focus ahead of encounter in Lens

COLOMBIA's captain Carlos Valderrama insists England are still a big side but the oldest swinger in town also believes his team are up to the task of cutting them down to size in Friday's Group G decider in Lens.

Valderrama, having rescued Colombia from their second early World Cup exit in four years with a killer pass for the substitute Leider Preciado to seal their crucial 1–0 success against Tunisia in Montpellier on Monday, said: "We're back at our ease now. After the Romania defeat we knew we had to beat Tunisia and didn't even think about England but we are now.

"It's a surprise to many people that they lost to Romania but I know England still have many assets, and the main one is their strength. They're a big team, both physically and because they are in the list of favourites to win the World Cup.

"They'll make it hard for us over the 90 minutes in Lens but we have the confidence now to concentrate on our own game."

The Colombian coach Hernan Dario Gomez was equally optimistic: "We're still on course for the final," he said.

"As far as the match against England is concerned, we're going to do our very best."

One could hardly miss Valderrama, with his outrageous bush of bottle-blonde curly hair. He is still a follower of some kind of fashion, although officially he is in his 37th year — despite various estimates putting his age between 35 and 39.

Either way, he has been around the international scene for a long time — and he is still nursing a desire to win the ultimate prize for Colombia. Many think he should have been pensioned off years ago — including the former Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla, who last week publicly criticised the tactics of the coach Hernan Gomez and his insistence on continuing to keep faith with Valderrama, a player Asprilla refers to as one of the "untouchables".

> 'England will make it hard for us over the 90 minutes but we will concentrate on our own game'

Asprilla was promptly sent home and that looked the death-knell for Colombia's hopes at this World Cup. Indeed, there seemed every reason to believe they would go out after the first round, as they did in USA 94. Back home, Valderrama is still known as "El Pibe" — The Kid. But it has taken on an increasingly ironic edge as the sometime midfield maestro struggled around the pitch at his third World Cup finals on decidedly ageing legs.

At one point whistles and jeers echoed around the Montpellier's La Mosson Stadium where Valderrama dazzled the home crowd a decade ago.



On to a winner . . . Preciado scores against Tunisia

After Monday's match, in a country where people are fond of repeating that "hope is the last thing that's lost", many are now hoping that their ageing team will make it past England. Whatever happens on Friday, Preciado's goal against Tunisia was celebrated with glee. And the festivities were a lot livelier than Sunday's when the opposition candidate Andres Pastrana won the country's presidential elections.

A cacophony of horn-honking caravans and conga-dancing fans took to the streets of major cities across the nation. Monday was a national holiday in Colombia. But a ban on the sale and public consumption of alcohol, enforced for all of the team's World Cup appearances, dampened the otherwise rowdy celebrations.

Foreign moves await Iranians

IRAN's jubilant players returned to training on Monday night but some had more than the historic 2-1 win over the United States on their minds.

Their victory has put the Iranians firmly in the spotlight and now they are poised to cash in with lucrative contracts from foreign clubs.

Already the centre-forward Ali Daei has signed for Bayern Munich after his former German club Arminia Bielefeld were relegated from the Bundesliga.

Khodadad Azizi also played in Germany last season, with Cologne. But with his club also going down he is expected to move in time for next season.

The right-winger Mehdi Mahdivikia, who scored the crucial second goal, said he expects to leave his Iranian club, Pirouzi, after the tournament.

Nima Nakisa, the goalkeeper, may be coming back to France sooner than he imagined, to join the French First Division club Nantes.

Iran's coach, Jalal Talebi, is currently working without a contract but hopes to secure his future soon.

The Iranian players will receive $7,000 (£4,375) apiece from their government for the momentous 2–1 victory over the Americans.

That is in addition to the £937 they collected for losing only 1–0 to the highly rated Yugoslavia in their first World Cup game in 20 years.

Despite its official hostility towards the US the Iranian government pegs the economy to the US dollar.

The players and their families will also go on an all-expenses-paid pilgrimage to the Saudi city of Mecca.

Iran face the formidable Germans in Group F tomorrow. That game is expected to oust the Iranians from the finals, but so far they have been full of surprises.

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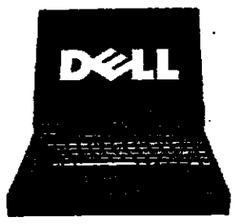
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France 98

Shearer joins chorus for Owen to start

David Lacey in La Baule on the trap England have fallen into

MONSIEUR Hoddle's holiday may be closer than he thinks. The hoteliers of Britanny need not be put on full alert just yet but after the way England were beaten by Romania in Toulouse on Monday it might be just as well to practise the serve and check the butterfly net.

By losing 2–1 to the Romanians, Hoddle's team have virtually ruled out their chances of reaching the knock-out stage of the tournament as the winners of Group G. Avoiding defeat against Colombia in Lens on Friday will be enough to take England through as runners-up, and they would still have needed a point to qualify even if they had won on Monday. Nevertheless they have wandered into the trap set for them by the World Cup draw.

Always the team finishing second in Group G has appeared fated to meet Argentina, the most likely winners of Group H in the next round, and on Monday's evidence England are palpably ill-equipped to overcome opponents of this calibre.

Of course it might not work out that way. Croatia could win Group H by beating Argentina in Bordeaux on Friday afternoon, leaving England with the prospect of facing Davor Suker rather than Gabriel Batistuta and Ariel Ortega. But unless Hoddle's defence engages in a spot of urgent revision between now and Friday night, Carlos Valderrama, Colombia's flame-haired Methuselah, could reduce the debate to so much empty hypothesis.

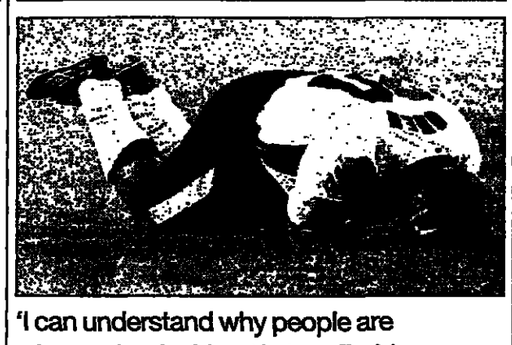
The fitness of Paul Ince, who went off after 33 minutes in Toulouse after aggravating the ankle injury he had suffered tackling Ian Wright towards the end of last season, is crucial to the English cause. Yesterday Hoddle rated his chances of playing as 50-50.

England have been in worse positions early in a World Cup but with potentially better teams. Whether or not Hoddle plays Michael Owen as Alan Shearer's partner from the start in Lens could be as important as Bobby Robson's decision to pair Peter Beardsley with Gary Lineker when England beat Poland 3-0 in Mexico in 1986.

The case for starting the match with Owen rather than Teddy Sheringham brooks less argument with each match. Owen, who scored the winner in Morocco as a substitute for the injured Wright, achieved so much in the 17 minutes he was allowed in Toulouse, getting England's equaliser then hitting a post in the stoppage time that remained after Dan Petrescu had scored Romania's winner, that to leave him on the bench in Lens would be pigheaded.

In fact, a situation has been reached that if England start the Colombia game with Sheringham again preferred to Owen, and then go out, Hoddle might consider heading for Dunkirk where Green Flag could sponsor one last launch to smuggle him home.

Yesterday even Shearer appeared ready to tread the boards on Owen's behalf, sympathising with the England fans' noisy demand for the 18-year-old Liverpool striker to come on after Viorel Moldovan had exploited poor defending to put Romania ahead in the second minute of the second half.



'I can understand why people are clamouring for him. Neither Teddy nor I have got his pace up front'

— Alan Shearer

"Fans aren't daft,' said Shearer. "I've always said that Michael Owen would play a part in this World Cup, and I can understand why people think he should be on at the start. He's already come on as a substitute and scored two goals at international level. He's young but that doesn't really matter. Up front neither Teddy nor myself has got the pace Michael Owen's got."

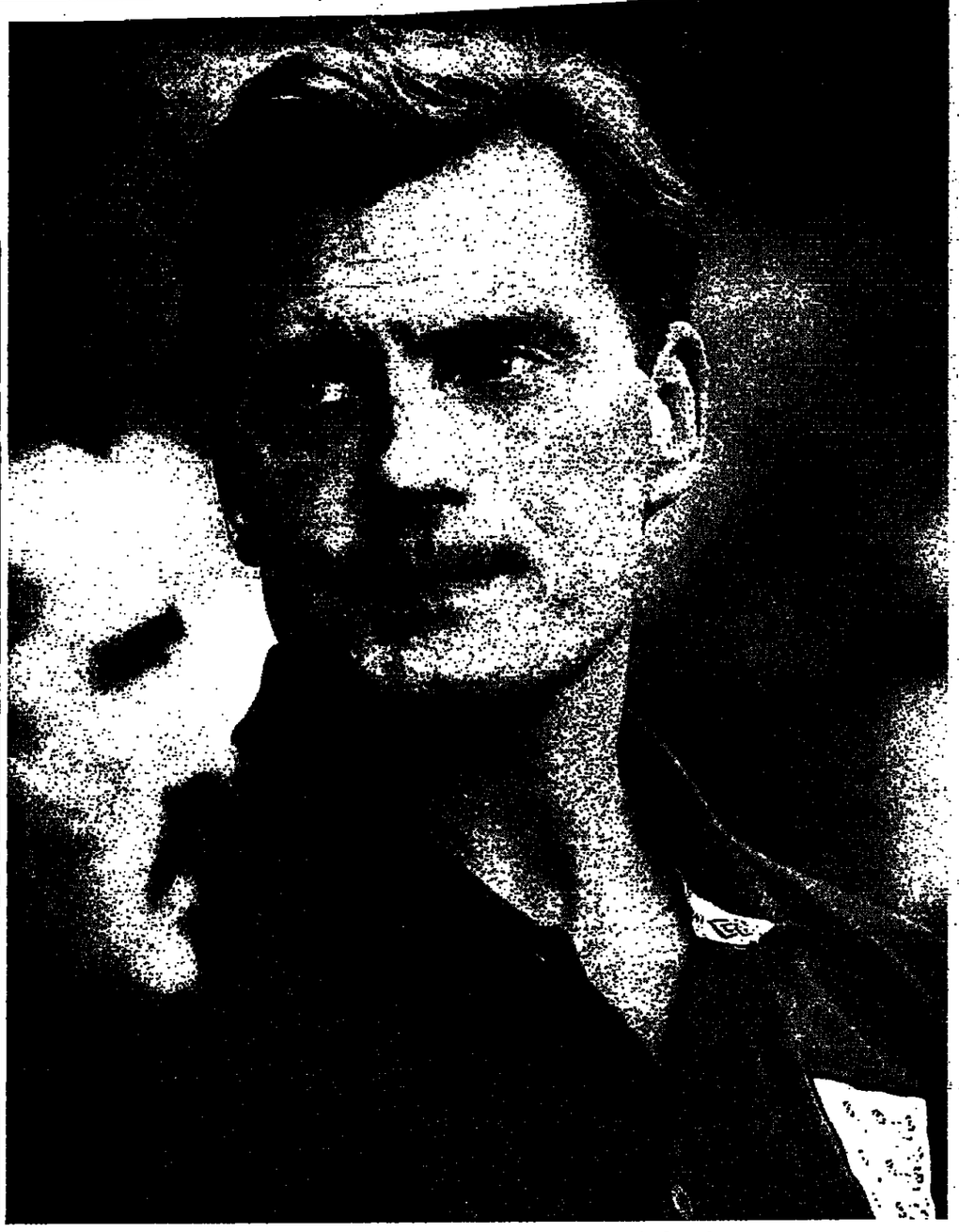
Yesterday Hoddle appeared to be in the process of convincing himself that Owen should be on from the kick-off in Lens. "The media and the people back home can think what they want but it was always in my mind to nurse him into this World Cup," he explained, "and he is an option I always felt we had for the third game because Colombia play a slightly different way to Tunisia and Romania.

"Teddy Sheringham's done nothing wrong in his England career. When Michael Owen came on after we had conceded a goal he had nothing to lose. But if he starts on Friday the pressure will be on him."

Should the 36-year-old Valderrama play as well as he did against Tunisia there will also be renewed pressure on an England defence which, apart from conceding two avoidable goals, became increasingly vulnerable to the angles Romania were finding with their passes and runs off the ball. Yet there appears to be no chance of Hoddle reverting to 4–4–2, not even for a game where defeat would send his team home humiliated.

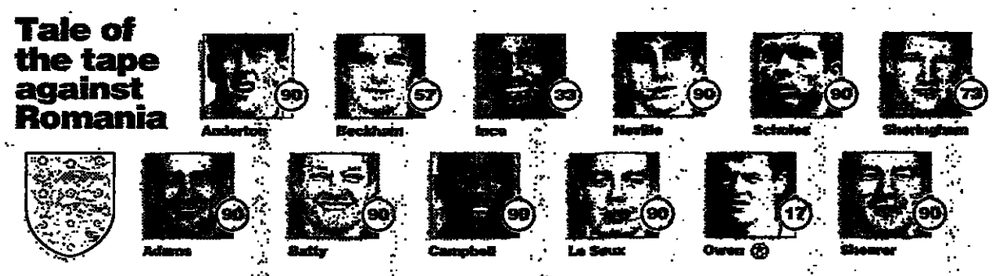
"Our defenders are experienced enough to switch from a back four to a back three," he insisted. But Sol Campbell and Tony Adams looked lost when Gheorghe Hagi set up the first goal and Graeme Le Saux's attempt to stop Dan Petrescu scoring the winner must surely have made Nigel Winterburn cringe.

The official England line is that the performance against Romania was better than the result, but Hoddle knew that something was up: "At 1–1, I couldn't sit there and say that's it, we've got a draw. We were the stronger side at the finish but I always felt Romania were a side you couldn't go to sleep against. We did go to sleep and were punished for it."



Tale of woe . . . Glenn Hoddle feels the pain and, left, Michael Owen sinks down in despair PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENKINS

Tale of the tape against Romania



	Anderton	Beckham	Ince	Neville	Scholes	Sheringham	Adams	Batty	Campbell	Le Saux	Owen ⚽	Shearer	Seaman
Shots on target	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	
Shots off target	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	
Passes attempted	39	40	75	37	37	14	33	44	2	36	31	40	
Pass completion	92%	73%	91%	62%	92%	64%	64%	80%	33%	78%	58%	75%	
Tackles	5	5	9	4	8	6	3	3	0	4	4	0	
Clearances, blocks	19	1	6	2	9	4	2	10	2	0	0	0	
Free-kicks conceded	1	2	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	1	
Saves													3
Balls caught													4
Balls distributed													28
Distribution success													61%

⚽ Goal
No yellow cards

Data supplied by OPTA

Victory sends Bucharest barmy in the heat of a memorable night

Mike Ormsby in the Romanian capital sees thousands take to the streets to celebrate

ENGLAND had been beaten and in the late evening hundreds of thousands of Romanians poured on to the streets in villages, towns and cities all over the country to celebrate victory.

In hot and humid Bucharest, a violent thunderstorm kicked off at the same time as the game, but by the end of the live television broadcast from Toulouse, heavy rain had eased and soon the steaming midnight streets flooded instead with hordes of good-humoured revellers of all ages. Police estimate 200,000 people came out to play in the capital.

Heaving crowds jammed Bulevardul Magheru, one of the city's wide shopping streets, for two miles in both directions. Barefoot men with painted faces paraded in their underpants, a woman strolled by wearing only a Romanian flag over her bare torso, wide-eyed children hammered football-crazy rhythms on saucepans while some adults ripped up rubbish bins, tore down saplings, and howled for joy amid the firecrackers.

A Land Rover cruised by with 20 people sitting on the roof and hanging off its sides, while cheap fireworks spluttered into the brooding sky. Television crews turned their lights on knots of teenagers noisily chanting: "One, two, three . . . we peed on them."

But there was no hint of Brit-bashing. On the contrary, the jubilant Romanians appeared almost apologetic when face to face with real-life Englezii. "I'm sorry, but it's a great experience for us to beat you," said a 22-year-old student, Ioana Tache.

Liviu Zomora, 37, a TV producer, said the atmosphere reminded him of the heady days in December 1989 when the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled: "For us, politics, football, and life . . . it's all a game right now. Mostly we lose. But tonight we won."

Daniela Vlad, 36, a teacher, saw the victory as a lesson for all Romanians: "Look at this untapped energy in our country. It's incredible, we have much to offer, but usually it's invisible. I hope all Romanians, all Europeans, will realise tonight we can do it."

One pensioner, with only a towel around her waist, went so far as to claim: "We destroyed an empire!"

The party in central Bucharest was still pumping at 3am. There were a few minor injuries but no arrests and no one tried to breach the heavy police cordon sealing off the street to the British embassy.

Nowadays Romanians are happy with what they have got, at least in football terms. Meanwhile, the average pay dribbles in at between £47 and £63 a month, Bucharest has not had any hot water supplyfor three weeks in most of the city and two-thirds of the country is struggling against deadly floods.

Not that Dan Petrescu, scorer of the late winner, was worrying. "I couldn't sleep on Sunday night, but even if I could have done, scoring the winner in the last minute wouldn't have been my wildest dream."

In a live TV message from Poland after the game, the visiting Prime Minister Radu Vasile seized the moment and urged Romanians to party: "I know it's a strange thing for me to say, but get out on the street tonight, we must celebrate."

Strange but true, and needless to say, they voted with their feet.

Le Saux v Petrescu

How the Chelsea team-mates matched up in Toulouse



Goal attempts		
Goals	0	1
Shots on target	0	1
Shots off target	1	1
Passes		
Successful passes	24	32
Unsuccessful passes	9	5
Goal assists	0	0
Dribbles		
Beats opponent	5	2
Tackled	3	1
Tackles		
Possession won	2	3
Possession lost	1	3
Fouls		
Free-kicks won	1	0
Free-kicks conceded	1	0
Offside	0	1

Tunisia coach pays with the sack

Don Beet

TUNISIA, eliminated from the World Cup after being beaten 2–0 by England last week and 1–0 by Colombia on Monday, yesterday sacked their coach Henryk Kasperczak. The Tunisian Football Federation said the Pole's deputy, Ali Selmi, would take charge for the side's last Group G match against Romania on Friday.

Kasperczak's contract ran only to the end of the finals and he has already agreed to coach the French side Bastia.

Kasperczak, who follows Saudi Arabia's Carlos Alberto Parreira, sacked on Saturday, and South Korea's Cha Bum-kun, dismissed on Sunday, came under attack for his tactics during the tournament. Slim Chiboub, president of Tunisia's champions Esperance, accused the coach of "spoiling Tunisia's football reputation".

A total of 21.6 million viewers tuned into England's 2–1 defeat by Romania on Monday night. The match attracted an average TV audience of 19.4 million and a 71 per cent share of the available audience, peaking at 21.6 million for the last 15 minutes.

"This figure is simply phenomenal, particularly for a first-round match," said Brian Barwick, ITV's controller of sport.

The game had the highest viewing figures for a football match shown on a single channel during the past two decades and the third highest total audience.

England's 1990 World Cup semi-final was seen by 25.2 million viewers over two channels and the 1996 European Championship semi-final between the same two sides attracted a combined audience of 23.8 million.

Professor Cary Cooper, a sports psychologist, claimed yesterday that although Glenn Hoddle's players would be feeling low yesterday, Monday's disappointment might spur them on against Colombia. He believed the players had started to believe their own publicity following their victory over Tunisia.

Team talk
The independent news and reports service
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Aston Villa	61	Ipswich Town	75	Sheffield Wed.	89
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World Cup round-up

Matthaus wins Germany recall

LOTHAR MATTHAUS, whose international career looked over three years ago, will play for Germany tomorrow in their last Group F match against Iran.

Germany's coach Berti Vogts, who usually gives nothing away, confirmed that the 37-year-old libero-cum-midfielder would definitely play in Montpellier. Matthäus impressed Vogts when he came on as a substitute against Yugoslavia on Sunday and helped his side come back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2.

"Lothar is going to start the match," Vogts said. "I expect him to produce a passionate performance and bring organisation to the team."

The Bayern Munich player, the only outfielder to contest five World Cups, will be playing a record 23rd match in the competition. On Sunday the veteran, capped a record 126 times, played in midfield where he has not played regularly for some time, having moved back into the sweeper's position several seasons ago.

Vogts would not say whether he would play Matthäus at the back or in midfield, but the signs are that he may start the match at libero with Olaf Thon moving forward into midfield.

Matthäus was captain when Germany last won the World Cup in 1990.

The pain of losing a two-goal lead to Germany was doubled for Yugoslavia's coach Slobodan Santrac when he reported a lengthy injury list. Five players took knocks, presenting him with a headache before his side's final group game against the United States in Nantes.

The striker Darko Kovecevic will miss the game and the defender Miroslav Djukic will miss the rest of the tournament with a ruptured calf muscle picked up in training before Sunday's draw.

Belgium's coach Georges Leekens has called up the winger Nico Van Kerckhoven to replace the injured Danny Boffin for his side's final Group E match against South Korea. But Leekens said there were also fitness doubts about the captain Franky Van der Elst and the goalkeeper Filip De Wilde for the game which Belgium need to win.

Leekens said De Wilde continued to be dogged by a groin problem and might be replaced by the 37-year-old keeper Philippe Van De Walle. Van der Elst, also 37, suffered from heat and fatigue after Saturday's match against Mexico in Bordeaux.

Holland's coach Guus Hiddink says he will make few, if any, changes for tomorrow's final Group E game with Mexico in St Etienne from the team that began the 5–0 rout of South Korea.

"We will be aiming to neutralise their strengths but I don't envisage any specific changes," he said yesterday.

The striker Patrick Kluivert is suspended for a second match but Philip Cocu, who opened the scoring on Saturday, resumed training yesterday after picking up an ankle injury.

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2.00	Guinea Hunter (nb)	Guinea Hunter
2.30	Nervous Rex	Quiz Master
3.00	Erupt	Rymer's Rascal
3.30	Pride Of Pendle	Pride Of Pendle
4.00	Henry The Proud	Henry The Proud
4.30	Last Lap	Thanks Keith
5.00	Summerhill Special	George Dillingham

Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rated.
Blinkered first time: 4.00 Sea Fig; 4.30 Charter, Swallow Warrior. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J–Jumps.

2.00 EBF CROWTHER HOMES MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £3,583 (11 declared)

101 (11) Arabian Desert M Johnston 9-0 — D Holland —
102 (10) 40 Chalcedony (32) T Barron 9-0 — C Lowther 79
103 (5) 5 Espada (21) P Calver 9-0 — J Carroll 85
104 (8) 0225 Golden Reef (11) R Hollinshead 9-0 — A McCarthy (3) 87
105 (7) 2 Guinea Hunter (43) T Easterby 9-0 — J Fortune ●90
106 (6) 60 Master Tirol (18) R Fahey 9-0 — R Winston (5) 86
107 (9) 53 Mensa (13) M Tompkins 9-0 — J Weaver 86
108 (2) Rebel Tiger B Rothwell 9-0 — J Weaver —
109 (4) Three Leaders D Nicholls 9-0 — M Fenton —
110 (3) Bemuse Sir M Prescott 9-0 — Alex Greaves —
111 (1) 6 Elsie Bamford (13) J Berry 8-9 — K Darley 84

Betting: 7-4 Guinea Hunter, 4-1 Bemuse, 6-1 Arabian Desert, 8-1 Mensa, 10-1 Elsie Bamford, 12-1 Golden Reef, 14-1 Espada, Master Tirol

FORM GUIDE – Chalcedony: In touch 4f, 10th of 14, 17l behind Be The Chief at Doncaster 6f mdn, Gd. Espada: Slowly into stride, stayed on final 2f, nearest finish, 5th of 11, 8l behind Saphire at Newcastle 5f mdn, Sft. Golden Reef: Chased leaders, every chance 3f out until weakened final furlong, 5th of 7, 9l behind Lady Bower at Leicester 6f mdn auct, Sft. Guinea Hunter: With leader, led over 3f out, hung left over 1f out, soon headed and not quicken, 2nd of 7, 10l behind Atlantic Destiny at York 6f mdn, Gd. Master Tirol: Soon outpaced, 12th of 14, 16l behind Courteous at Doncaster 6f mdn auct, Gd. Mensa: Always prominent, every chance 1f out, one pace, 3rd of 7, 2l behind Pistachio at Yarmouth 6f nov, Gd-Fm. Elsie Bamford: Prominent, effort 2f out, ran on one pace, 6th of 14, 20l behind Light Fingered at Carlisle 5f mdn auct, Gd-Sft.

2.30 BBC RADIO CUMBRIA SELLING STAKES
6f £2,444 (11 declared)

201 (6) 111063 Birchwood Sun (13) (CD) M Dods 8-9-10 — J Weaver ★ 87
202 (11) 030-01 Nervous Rex (23) (CD) D Nicholls 4-9-10 — Alex Greaves 85
203 (5) -236550 C-Harry (13) (D) R Hollinshead 4-9-5 — A McCarthy (3) 87
204 (4) 00500- Most Respectful (401) N Tinkler 5-9-5 — L Charnock —
205 (8) -300000 Smart Guest (6) (D) J Parkes 5-9-5 — T Williams 78
206 (8) 060-30 Winter Scout (32) (CD) R Fahey 10-9-5 — R Winston (5) ★ 89
207 (10) -20000 Barrelbio (19) J J O'Neill 3-8-12 — W Supple 77
208 (2) -033-02 Quiz Master (4) E Weymes 3-8-12 — K Darley ★ ●90
209 (3) -055-00 Sandside (8) J Berry 3-8-12 — C Lowther 73
210 (7) 00 Spice Bay (8) R Whitaker 3-8-12 — Y Halliday 73
211 (1) 00 Tom Tim (16) Miss J Craze 3-8-12 — S Webster 78

Betting: 5-2 Quiz Master, 5-1 Nervous Rex, 6-1 Barrelbio, Sandside, 7-1 Birchwood Sun, 8-1 C-Harry, Winter Scout, 16-1 Smart Guest

FORM GUIDE – Birchwood Sun: Behind, headway under pressure over 2f out, ran on towards finish, 3rd of 15, 3l behind Sooperfolio, with C-Harry (rec 4lb) 7th, btn 8l, at Carlisle 6f claim, Gd-Sft. Nervous Rex: Always prominent, led inside final furlong, ran on well, beating Henry The Hawk a hd at Leicester 6f sell hcap, Fm. Most Respectful: Weakened quickly; 11th of 12, 22l behind Miss Pigalle at Musselburgh 7f hcap, Gd-Sft. Smart Guest: Raced wide, lost place halfway, headway over 2f out, never dangerous, 8th of 15, 12l behind Dark Menace at Southwell 7f app sell hcap, AW. Winter Scout: Always outpaced and behind far side, last of 22, 20l behind Churchill's Shadow at Doncaster 7f app hcap, Gd. Barrelbio: Hampered after 1f, never dangerous after, 10th of 11, 13l behind Pigeon at Catterick 6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Quiz Master: Chased leaders, every chance over 2f out, no extra final furlong, 2nd of 6, 3l behind Barren Lands at Redcar 6f mdn, Gd-Sft. Sandside: Soon driven along, never troubled leaders, 7th of 10, 6l behind Dawn Patrol at Musselburgh 5f hcap, Sft.

3.00 EDMUNDSON ELECTRICAL HANDICAP
7f £3,648 (15 declared)

301 (10) 00-002 Baldo (12) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 8-10-0 — J F Egan 87
302 (14) -30005 Jay-Owe-Two (13) (D) R Whitaker 4-9-9 — Dean McKeown ★ 86
303 (15) 10-061 Moonlander Lad (4) (6lb ex) (D) B McMahon 4-8-9 — L Newton 86
304 (9) 33-600 Never Golf Rocket (18) T Naughton 4-9-2 — D Holland 82
305 (11) -00105 Erupt (8) (D) M Britain 5-8-10 — D Mernagh (7) 88
306 (12) 0-0554 Rymer's Rascal (14) (D) E Alston 6-8-9 — A Culhane ●90
307 (6) 60-018 Step On Degas (21) (D) Mrs A King 5-8-8 — J Fortune 84
308 (7) 326030 Skyers Flyer (14) M Wane 4-8-7 — J Weaver 84
309 (13) 0-2631 Flying Pennant (12) (D) J Bradley 5-8-5 — K Darley ★ 87
310 (5) 056003 Don Pepe (25) (D) D Nicholls 7-8-5 — Wal Kan (7) 87
311 (2) 465-0 Kwikpoint (13) M Todhunter 4-8-5 — J Carroll 80
312 (4) 100-60 Suggest (33) (D) W Storey 3-8-0 — J Bramhill 78
313 (3) 0-4633 Murphy's Gold (13) (CD) (BF) R Fahey 7-8-0 — S Maloney 88
314 (1) 0-6000 Euro Sceptic (14) (C) (D) T Easterby 6-7-13 — R Winston (5) ★ 86
315 (8) -05002 Oriole (8) (D) Enrico Incisa 5-7-10 — Kim Tinkler ★ 87

Betting: 5-4 Moonlander Lad, 7-1 Baldo, Rymer's Rascal, Flying Pennant, 8-1 Erupt, Murphy's Gold, 10-1 Don Pepe, Euro Sceptic, Oriole, 14-1 Suggest

FORM GUIDE – Baldo: Hard ridden and headway over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, 2nd of 15, 1l behind Step-Rebull at Sandown 7f hcap, Gd-Sft. Jay-Owe-Two: Effort over 3f out, headway 2f out, beaten approaching final furlong, 6th of 8, 4l behind Impulsive Air at Carlisle 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Moonlander Lad: Headway 3f out, led inside final furlong, ran on well, beating Suallach by 3l at W'hampton 1m hcap, AW. Never Golf Rocket: Always behind, 11th of 16, 12l behind Saltorspark Flyer at Epsom 6f hcap, Gd. Rymer's Rascal: Raced keenly, tracked leaders, kept on same pace final 2f, 4th of 13, 3l behind Ochos Rios, with Euro Sceptic (rec 14lb) 6th, btn 7l, Skyers Flyer (rec 2lb) last, btn 10l, at Beverley 7f hcap, Gd. Step On Degas: Bumped start, held up and behind, never near to challenge, 6th of 14, 7l behind Trojan Hero at Warwick 7f stks, Gd. Flying Pennant: Held up, headway 3f out, led 2f out, ran on well, beating Honeywood 2l at Chepstow 7f hcap, Gd-Sft. Don Pepe: Held up in rear, headway over 2f out, kept on inside final furlong, 3rd of 14, 3l behind Foisterra at Catterick 7f stks, Gd-Sft. Suggest: Led until headed and weakened 3f out, 14th of 16, 24l behind Circuitaar at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Murphy's Gold: In touch, headway and chance over 1f out, no extra, 3rd of 8, 2l behind Impulsive Air, with Kwikpoint (gave 7lb) last, btn 7l, at Carlisle 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Oriole: Behind, headway on outside 3f out, stayed on towards finish, 2nd of 16, 1l behind Ochos Rios, with Erupt (gave 15lb) 5th, btn 3l, at Thirsk 7f hcap, Sft.

3.30 CROWTHER HOMES CARLISLE BELL H'CAP (SHOWCASE RACE)
1m £7,685 (18 declared)

401 (12) 000-25 Sky Dome (12) (C) (D) M Tompkins 5-9-12 — A Nicholls (7) 85
402 (15) 620522 Suallach (4) (D) R Hollinshead 5-9-9 — A McCarthy (3) 87
403 (14) 016512 High Premium (7) (C) (D) R Fahey 10-9-8 — R Winston (5) 85
404 (2) 0-5042 Naskhi (5) (D) M Johnston 3-9-3 — D Holland 88
405 (17) 020-03 Shining Example (8) J J O'Neill 6-9-3 — W Supple 83
406 (1) 10-056 Colway Ritz (26) W Storey 4-9-2 — J Fortune 86
407 (5) 053053 Pride Of Pendle (11) (D) M Wane 9-9-0 — J Weaver ●90
408 (4) 850-11 Lucky Archer (28) (D) J Bradley 5-8-12 — K Darley 89
409 (3) 080443 Band On The Run (7) (D) (BF) B McMahon 11-8-12 — L Newton 87
410 (8) -44324 Barresbo (16) C Fairhurst 4-8-12 — L Charnock 86
411 (7) 00-000 Best Of All (26) (D) J Berry 6-8-11 — C Lowther ★ 78
412 (11) 31-001 Scene (8) (5lb ex) (D) J Glover 3-8-11 — S D Williams 86
413 (6) 050-00 Keane's Axis (11) D Nicholls 7-8-9 — Wal Kan (7) 80
414 (18) 000456 Bowcliffe (11) (CD) E Alston 7-8-8 — J Carroll 88
415 (16) 550602 Medman's Mirage (14) V Thompson 3-7-11 — D Mernagh (7) 82
416 (10) 0-5444 Tileal (4) M Hammond 6-7-10 — N Kennedy 84
417 (9) 40-016 Thatched (14) (CD) R Barr 8-7-10 — N Carlisle 86
418 (13) 040-44 South China Sea (76) J L Harris 4-7-10 — J Bramhill 79

Ladbrokes betting: 6-1 Pride Of Pendle, 13-2 Scene, 7-1 Bowcliffe, 8-1 Lucky Archer, 10-1 Sky Dome, Barresbo, 12-1 Band On The Run, High Premium, Naskhi, 14-1 Suallach, 16-1 Shining Example, Thatched
Coral betting: 13-2 Pride Of Pendle, 7-1 Scene, 8-1 Bowcliffe, 9-1 Sky Dome, Lucky Archer, 10-1 Band On The Run, 11-1 Naskhi, Barresbo, 14-1 Suallach, High Premium, Thatched, 16-1 Colway Ritz
Hills betting: 13-2 Pride Of Pendle, Scene, Bowcliffe, 8-1 Lucky Archer, 10-1 Naskhi, 11-1 Band On The Run, 12-1 Barresbo, Sky Dome, 14-1 Suallach, High Premium, Shining Example, 16-1 Thatched
Tote betting: 13-2 Pride Of Pendle, 7-1 Scene, 8-1 Lucky Archer, 9-1 Band On The Run, Bowcliffe, 10-1 Naskhi, 11-1 Sky Dome, Barresbo, 14-1 Suallach, High Premium, Colway Ritz, Thatched

FORM GUIDE – Sky Dome: Pulled hard, held up, ridden over 2f out, weakened over 1f out, 6th of 8, 8l behind Cugina at Sandown 1m2f hcap, Gd-Sft. Suallach: Prominent, led over 1f out until inside final furlong, 2nd of 5, 3l behind Moonlander Lad at W'hampton 1m hcap, AW. High Premium: Close up, slight lead 3f out, headed 1f out, not quicken, 2nd of 6, 1l behind Nobby Barnes at Hamilton 1m1f hcap, Sft. Naskhi: Tracked leaders, led over 2f out until well over 1f out, not pace of winner, 2nd of 8, 5l behind River Bear at Ayr 1m1f hcap, Gd-Sft. Shining Example: In touch, raced alone far side, no impression final 2f, 3rd of 7, 4l behind Brecbne Gold at Musselburgh 1m hcap, Sft. Colway Ritz: Effort entering straight, never troubled leaders, 6th of 9, 22l behind Yavana's Pace, with Best Of All (rec 2lb) 8th, btn 40l, at Ayr 1m2f hcap, Gd-Fm. Pride Of Pendle: Held up, headway to disputed lead approaching final furlong, no extra, 3rd of 17, 2l behind Roper, with Bowcliffe (gave 3lb) 5th, btn 3l, at York 1m1f hcap, Gd-Sft. Lucky Archer: Chased leaders, headway to lead over 1f out, ridden out, beating Dakbree 3l at Yarmouth 7f hcap, Fm. Band On The Run: Prominent, ridden over 2f out, ran on inside final furlong, 3rd of 16, 2l behind May Queen Megan at Nottingham 1m hcap, Gd. Barresbo: Rear division, outpaced 3f out, stayed on final furlong, never dangerous, 4th of 9, 5l behind Kate Komelia at Pontefract 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Scene: In touch, headway over 2f out, led over 1f out, ran on, beating Nare Loup 1l at Thirsk 1m 8lr hcap, Sft. Keane's Axis: Slowly into stride, always outpaced and well behind, 16th of 21, 21l behind Grey Kingdom at York 6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Medman's Mirage: Chased leaders, led over 2f out, ran on under pressure, just caught, 2nd of 7, shd behind Coscoroba at Hamilton 1m1f sell, Sft. Tileal: Raced alone stands's side, kept on same pace final furlong, 4th of 8, 6l behind Polar Refrain at Redcar 1m ladies hcap, Gd-Sft. Thatched: Dwelt start, behind until stayed on approaching final furlong, 6th of 13, 5l behind Ochos Rios at Beverley 7f hcap, Gd.

4.00 C. G. TRUCK HANDICAP 3YO
6f £2,996 (20 declared)

501 (15) 4-1004 Euro Venture (28) (D) D Nichols 9-7 — Alex Greaves 88
502 (12) 0-3040 Empire State (14) M Tompkins 9-4 — A Nicholls (7) 87
503 (18) 20-60 Misty Moor (34) M Johnston 9-3 — D Holland 80
504 (1) 000-03 Two Williams (8) M W Easterby 9-1 — S Flannamore (7) 80
505 (5) 395005 Euro Cadigo (28) (D) S Rattlewell 9-0 — J Fortune 81
506 (10) 0-2302 Wishbone Alley (13) (BF) M Dods 9-0 — J Carroll 88
507 (14) 0400 Ewroy (34) C Thornton 8-13 — Dean McKeown 83
508 (6) 05-004 Tancred Times (8) (D) D Barker 8-13 — T Williams 85
509 (11) 1254 Charlies Bride (7) (D) J J O'Neill 8-13 — K Darley 86
510 (16) -10002 Henry The Proud (8) (D) J Berry 8-12 — C Lowther ●88
511 (3) 0000- Caroline's Pet (278) A Bailey 8-11 — A Culhane —
512 (17) 6-0053 Bollin Ann (13) T Easterby 8-9 — L Charnock 87
513 (20) 000200 Sea Fig (6) T Barron 8-7 — W Supple ★ 85
514 (13) 06-600 Stadiner (13) M Britain 8-7 — D Mernagh (7) 83
515 (19) 050005 Lakeland Pride (8) D Nichols 8-5 — G Duffield 82
516 (7) 404-00 Scotch Time (8) R Fahey 8-1 — R Winston (5) 85
517 (2) 650030 Cead Mile Failte (12) R Ingram 7-12 — M Baird (3) 87
518 (8) -50025 Tom (5) J Hetherton 7-10 — N Kennedy ★ 85
519 (9) -69500 Glenfall Lad (21) R Hollinshead 7-10 — A McCarthy (3) 82
520 (4) 0055- Vogue Imperial (333) D Chapman 7-10 — S Maloney —

Betting: 6-1 Euro Venture, 7-1 Two Williams, Wishbone Alley, 8-1 Euro Cadigo, 10-1 Empire State, Charlies Bride, 12-1 Henry The Proud, Bollin Ann, Stadiner, 14-1 Ewroy, Scotch Time

FORM GUIDE – Euro Venture: Raced far side, always chasing leaders, one pace final 2f, 4th of 19, 10l behind Andand at Ripon 6f hcap, Gd. Empire State: Led over 4f, weakened over 1f out, eased when beaten inside final furlong, 12th of 20, 17l behind Gaily Mill at Salisbury 7f hcap, Gd-Sft. Two Williams: In touch, stayed on final 2f, no impression, 3rd of 8, 4l behind Lago di Varano at Ripon 5f hcap, Sft. Euro Cadigo: Held up, headway over 2f out, kept on under pressure inside final furlong, 3rd of 16, 2l behind Three Angels at Haydock 7f hcap, Gd. Wishbone Alley: Headway over 2f out, chased leaders, kept on well, 2nd of 15, 1l behind Maji, with Bollin Ann (rec 3lb) 3rd, btn 1l, Stadiner (rec 10lb) 7th, btn 8l, at Carlisle 6f mdn, Gd-Sft. Ewroy: Raced stands' side, never troubled leaders, 8th of 23, 9l behind Stammari Song, with Misty Moor (gave 5lb) 12th, btn 16l, at Newcastle 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Charlies Bride: Held up, headway 2f out, weakened inside final furlong, 4th of 7, 2l behind Miss Bussell at Hamilton 1m stks, Sft. Henry The Proud: Chased leaders, led inside final furlong, caught close home, 2nd of 18, hd behind Roy Di Sonisa, with Tancred Times (rec 2lb) 4th, btn 1l, Lakeland Pride (rec 5lb) 8th, btn 2l, Scotch Time (rec 14lb) 11th, btn 8l, at Thirsk 6f ladies hcap, Sft. Caroline's Pet: Prominent to halfway, soon ridden and lost place, 10th of 12, 14l behind Last Christmas at Haydock 7f mdn, Gd-Fm.

4.30 KLOCKNER MOELLER MAIDEN HANDICAP
2m 1f £2,430 (15 declared)

601 (5) 42026- Charter (J113) W Storey 7-10-0 — J Fanning ★ 83
602 (8) 402-33 Such Boldness (18) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-0 — J Fortune 85
603 (14) 0-0505 Rack Row (11) J Hetherton 4-9-7 — N Kennedy 79
604 (12) 00-58 Young Dalesman (8) A Streeter 5-8-11 — J Weaver 88
605 (2) 00-004 Fortunes Mission (46) J Pearce 4-8-10 — J Carroll 88
606 (3) 350430 Arctic Star (8) V Thompson 3-8-7 — A Nicholls (7) 81
607 (13) 640015 Tap On Tootsie (28) T Wall 6-8-4 — L Newton 84
608 (10) 0-5240 King's Buster (32) (BF) R J Houghton 3-8-5 — A Culhane ★ 85
609 (4) 00-040 Slightly Special (8) D Thom 6-8-1 — M Fenton 79
610 (15) 600/00 Inlek (J46) J L Harris 6-7-13 — J Bramhill 77
611 (1) -24035 Last Lap (27) (BF) T Easterby 3-7-10 — L Charnock ★ 85
612 (7) -00452 Thanks Keith (25) J J O'Neill 3-7-10 — W Supple ★ ●90
613 (6) -03048 Vertiggan (28) J Bethell 4-7-10 — Darren Moffatt (3) 85
614 (9) 505008 Parremenalla (18) J L Harris 6-7-10 — D Mernagh (7) 76
615 (11) 660-00 Swallow Warrior (16) T Etherington 3-7-10 — R Winston (5) ★ 79

Betting: 9-2 Fortunes Mission, 5-1 Young Dalesman, 6-1 Charter, Thanks Keith, 7-1 Such Boldness, 8-1 Last Lap, 10-1 Slightly Special, 12-1 Inlek

FORM GUIDE – Charter: Headway 10f out, chased leaders over 4f out, soon ridden and no impression, 6th of 15, 11l behind Il Principe at Catterick 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Such Boldness: Led 9f, ridden and lost touch over 3f out, never dangerous after, 3rd of 8, 7l behind Brimming at Haydock 1m6f mdn, Gd. Rack Row: Always prominent, one pace well over 2f out, soon weakened, 5th of 13, 18l behind Turgenev at Sandown 1m6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Young Dalesman: Headway 6f out, effort 2f out, stayed on far side, kept on same pace, 6th of 13, 8l behind Asleep at Pontefract 1m6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Fortunes Mission: Close up, led 5f out until over 2f out, one pace app final furlong, 4th of 13, 40l behind Daily Boy at Musselburgh 2m hcap, Sft. Arctic Star: Close up, led 6f out to 3f out, weakened, 7th of 10, 30l behind Boc Boy at Musselburgh 2m hcap, Sft. King's Buster: Led 10f, 7th of 14, 22l behind Monaco Gold at Lingfield 2m app hcap, AW. Slightly Special: Prominent until outpaced final 3f, 7th of 10, 14l behind Daily Boy at Musselburgh 1m4f hcap, Sft. Inlek: Chased leaders, driven along 7f out, lost place over 4f out, 8th of 9, behind Zorba at 1m5f app stks, AW. Last Lap: Rear division, effort over 3f out, beaten over 1f out, 5th of 8, 7l behind Prophets Pride at Ayr 1m2f mdn claim, Gd-Sft. Thanks Keith: Chased leaders, kept on well final 2f, 2nd of 11, 13l behind Bonburn Motto, with Tap On Tootsie (rec 11lb) 5th, btn 10l, at Musselburgh 2m hcap, Gd-Fm.

5.00 CROWTHER HOMES BURGH BARONY CLASSIFIED STAKES (AMATEURS RIDERS)
1m 4f £2,787 (8 declared)

1 (7) -86430 Gadroon (8) V Thompson 4-11-2 — M Thompson 80
2 (8) 030321 Polar Champ (8) (D) S Woods 5-11-2 — K Santana (5) ★ 89
3 (3) 30-120 Westminster (34) (D) M Tompkins 6-11-2 — M Jenkins (5) ★ 87
4 (6) 61-000 Bramblee Way (19) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 — H E Jones (7) 85
5 (4) /30543 George Dillingham (14) D Smith 8-11-0 — A Jacobs (5) ●90
6 (2) 120302 Summerhill Special (8) (D) D Barker 7-10-13 — Miss E Ramsden 88
7 (1) 3004-0 Daira (21) (D) B Ellison 5-10-11 — Mrs C Williams (5) 86
8 (5) -1-0414 Adeste Fideles (13) (D) M Bell 3-9-13 — R Lathem (3) 87

Betting: 9-4 Polar Champ, 7-2 George Dillingham, 4-1 Summerhill Special, 5-1 Adeste Fideles, 6-1 Westminster, 14-1 Bramblee Way, 25-1 Gadroon, Daira

Racing

Change of plan as High-Rise misses Derby rematch

Chris Hawkins

SUNDAY'S Budweiser Irish Derby was dealt a major blow yesterday when High-Rise, winner of the Epsom Derby, was surprisingly not supplemented for the race.

High-Rise misses a rematch with City Honours, beaten a head in second, and will instead be trained for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot on July 25, which gives him more time to recover from his Epsom exertions.

Luca Cumani, the colt's trainer, explained: "Physically he's fine and has worked well since Epsom, but it has been decided after consulting with his owner Sheikh Obaid Al Maktoum and Anthony Stroud (racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed) to give him more time with a view to an autumn campaign, hopefully taking in the Arc.

"Another hard race this weekend so soon after Epsom might have meant we had no horse left. There is also the fact that the Irish Derby involved a supplementary fee of IR£75,000 as he wasn't originally entered."

High-Rise clocked the third fastest time for the Epsom Derby but did not lose much weight according to his trainer and took the race in his stride. The argument about preserving him for the autumn is valid, however, as this was exactly the path pursued by Lammtarra after his Epsom success in 1995.

Cumani's 1988 Derby winner, Kahyasi, went on to take the Irish equivalent but could finish only sixth to Tony Bin in the Arc.

High-Rise is owned by Sheikh Mohammed's cousin whose decision would appear to clear the way for the Godolphin colt City Honours, beaten a head by High-Rise at Epsom, to pick up this stallion-making Group One prize, although the French Derby winner Dream Well represents a stumbling block.

Only two colts have managed to achieve the French-Irish Derby double — Assert in 1982 and Old Vic in 1989 — and Dream Well's rider Cash Asmussen will no doubt remember the defeat five years ago at The Curragh of Hernando, his French Derby winner, by the Epsom hero Commander In Chief.

Henry Cecil's Sadian will also come into the equation. Although a well-beaten seventh at Epsom, he had previously run High-Rise to a neck in the Lingfield Derby Trial and his trainer believes that performance is nearer his true form.

Kieren Fallon was instructed to make plenty of use of Sadian in the Derby and those tactics are now considered to have been ill-conceived in such a fast run race. It is thought the colt will be held up at The Curragh similar to Lingfield where he bided his time until two out.

City Honours was the best looker in the Epsom Derby field and should have improvement in him. Reports of his recent work certainly suggest he is going the right way.

Peter Chapple-Hyam trained him as a two-year-old and firmly believes that if he still had him the Epsom Derby winning percentage would now be in his bank account instead of Cumani's.

His reasoning is based on the extra severity of his Manton gallops compared to those at Newmarket. Chapple-Hyam's view is that a fitter City Honours would have resisted High-Rise as they duelled in the final furlong at Epsom.

Altogether there are 10 acceptors for Sunday's big race with Aidan O'Brien supplying three of them — Risk Material, the mount of Christy Roche, Desert Fox (Seamus Heffernan) and Saratoga Springs, who will be ridden by Walter Swinburn.



Cumani . . . holding action

Sunshine Street is also in the line-up and out to prove that his fourth at 150-1 at Epsom, where he led until the final furlong, was no fluke.

Making up the field are Campo Catino, trained by Charles O'Brien, Make No Mistake (Dermot Weld) and Takarian (John Oxx).

Hill's prices: 6-4 City Honours, 5-2 Dream Well, 6-1 Saratoga Springs, 7-1 Sadian and Sunshine Street, 8-1 Risk Material. Ladbrokes bet: 11-8 City Honours, 5-2 Dream Well, 7-1 Sadian, Saratoga Springs and Sunshine Street.

Quinn succeeds in Focus appeal

RICHARD Quinn was successful yesterday in his appeal to the disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club against the stewards' decision not to award his second-placed mount Focus a race at York 10 days ago.

He was aggrieved at the panel's verdict that interference caused by first-past-the-post Princely Dream, ridden by Tony Culhane, had been accidental and not improved his position.

After hearing evidence from the jockeys and a steward, and seen video recordings of the race, the committee found that Princely Dream had interfered with Focus in the final furlong due to "careless riding" on the part of Culhane in that he allowed his horse to drift into Focus without taking reasonable steps to straighten him up.

They therefore upheld the appeal and amended the placings to put Focus first and Princely Dream second. Culhane was suspended from riding for two days, June 26-27.

Epsom tonight

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.35	Dreaming	Dreaming
7.05	Island Story	Quintas
7.35	Genius	Phantom Waters
8.05	Stoppes Brow	Stoppes Brow
8.35	Star Manager	Queen Of Scotland
9.05	Marengo	Shamanic

Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Blinkered first time: 8.35 Test The Water. Visored: 7.35 Silver Groom; 8.05 Grand Musica.

6.35 EBF NOVICE STAKES 2YO — SKY
7f £3,453 (6 declared)

1 (4) 61 Light Fingered (13) M Tompkins 8-2 — D Biggs 87
2 (6) 021 Thank Heavens (8) (5) M Channon 9-0 — B Perham 85
3 (3) 1 Dreaming (7) Sir M Prescott 8-13 — S Sanders ●90
4 (1) 0 Manzool (25) G Lewis 8-12 — Paul Eddery 81
5 (5) 63 Redoubte (28) R Hannon 8-12 — Pat Eddery 87
6 (2) 53 Brown's Flight (12) S Dow 8-7 — M Roberts 88

Betting: 6-4 Dreaming, 4-1 Thank Heavens, 9-2 Redoubte, 11-2 Brown's Flight, 13-2 Light Fingered, 14-1 Manzool

7.05 BT ALEX. BROWN MAIDEN STAKES 3YO — SKY
1m 2f £3,453 (6 declared)

1 (1) 420-43 Classic Manoeuvre (15) R Hannon 9-0 — R Hughes 88
2 (2) Inch Perfect W G M Turner 9-0 — D McGaffin (7) —
3 (4) 0 Mane Frame (9) H Morrison 9-0 — C Rutter 78
4 (6) 0-2354 Quintas (14) P Cole 9-0 — Pat Eddery ●88
5 (5) 00 Cosmic Girl (14) Miss B Sanders 8-9 — A Clark 80
6 (3) 33 Island Story (25) Lord Huntingdon 8-9 — L Dettori 88

Betting: 7-4 Island Story, 2-1 Classic Manoeuvre, 9-4 Quintas, 20-1 Inch Perfect, Mane Frame, 25-1 Cosmic Girl.

7.35 DAILY MAIL/NABS HANDICAP — SKY
1m 4f £4,202 (11 declared)

1 (10) 200-00 Silver Groom (18) M Channon 8-10-0 — A Eddery (7) ★ 78
2 (7) U3010- Alakdar (J164) (D) R Champion 4-9-12 — B Cochrane —
3 (3) 2262-1 Two Socks (21) J King 5-9-11 — Pat Eddery 88
4 (4) 2000-4 Genius (22) C Horgan 4-9-8 — Paul Eddery 86
5 (6) 460-36 Mr Bromwling (28) (D) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-3 — R Pollard (7) ★ 86
6 (11) 0-2010 Talib (4) (D) (BF) P Mitchell 4-9-1 — Martin Dwyer 88
7 (5) 6-4412 Phantom Waters (25) (D) (BF) R J Houghton 3-8-11 — J Reid ●90
8 (1) 445 Classic Masquerade (18) R Hannon 3-8-5 — Dane O'Neill 86
9 (9) 6-5401 Joli Flyers (14) (D) M Haynes 4-8-4 — C Rutter 87
10 (2) 104053 Genius (14) S Dow 3-8-4 — P Doe (5) 86
11 (8) 006064 La Chatelaine (11) Miss B Sanders 4-7-10 — M Henry 86

Betting: 9-2 Two Socks, 11-2 Phantom Waters, 6-1 Joli Flyers, 8-1 Mr Bromwling, Talib, Genius, 10-1 La Chatelaine, Classic Masquerade

8.05 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE H'CAP — SKY
7f £4,241 (11 declared)

1 (11) 130100 Big Ben (18) (D) R Hannon 4-9-12 — Dane O'Neill 85
2 (1) 060301 Pericles (21) (D) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9 — L Dettori 88
3 (6) 025160 Stoppes Brow (12) (D) G L Moore 6-9-9 — K Fallon ★ ●90
4 (4) 00-006 Bold Hunter (18) Mrs P Dutfield 4-9-8 — M Roberts ★ 84
5 (10) 501430 Knobbleeneeze (D) M Channon 8-9-7 — A Eddery (7) ★ 85
6 (5) -21300 Dandy Regent (34) (D) C Cyzer 4-9-6 — S Sanders 86
7 (7) 600-00 Grand Musica (35) (CD) I Balding 5-9-2 — Martin Dwyer ★ 78
8 (3) 44-135 Kweilo (7) (D) J W Payne 4-8-11 — G Carter 85
9 (8) 220/30 Young Mazaad (32) (D) (BF) D O'Brien 5-8-10 — G Bardwell 87
10 (2) 00-000 Bohanee (23) J Akehurst 3-8-3 — A Clark 83
11 (9) 050- Croft Sands (283) J Akehurst 5-7-10 — M Adams —

Betting: 4-1 Pericles, 5-1 Knobbleeneeze, 7-1 Big Ben, Kweilo, 8-1 Stoppes Brow, Dandy Regent, Grand Musica, 10-1 Young Mazaad, 12-1 Bold Hunter

8.35 WALTON-ON-THE-HILL CLAIMING STAKES
1m 114yds £3,453 (9 declared)

1 (8) 40-508 Star Manager (32) P Cole 8-9-8 — Pat Eddery 88
2 (2) 0-0600 Test The Water (28) R Hannon 4-8-7 — R Hughes ★ 89
3 (9) 011204 Dancing Lawyer (8) K Burke 7-9-3 — M Cotton (7) 86
4 (7) 514600 Ivor's Deed (15) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-1 — R Pollard (7) 86
5 (3) 000006 Royal Cadiner (4) (D) G L Moore 6-8-12 — S Whitworth 84
6 (1) 00 Wikide (30) J Akehurst 4-8-10 — A Clark 83
7 (5) 0-2003 Mandhar (26) G Lewis 3-8-4 — Paul Eddery ★ 85
8 (4) 610636 Queen Of Scotland (5) (BF) M Channon 3-8-3 — C Rutter ●90
9 (6) 300010 Jato Dancer (28) J Arnold 3-8-1 — Martin Dwyer 83

Betting: 5-2 Star Manager, 4-1 Dancing Lawyer, 5-1 Queen Of Scotland, 7-1 Test The Water, Mandhar, 10-1 Jato Dancer, 11-1 Ivor's Deed

9.05 SURREY RACING HANDICAP
6f £3,420 (9 declared)

1 (3) 0-0010 Golden Pound (15) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 6-10-0 — J Reid ★ 87
2 (6) 028-24 Shamanic (18) (D) S Woods 6-9-11 — K Fallon ●90
3 (4) 332410 The Fugative (18) (CD) P Mitchell 5-9-5 — M Tebbutt 88
4 (9) 00-665 Master Mac (12) (D) J Akehurst 3-9-5 — S Sanders 86
5 (8) -11143 Marengo (16) (CD) J Akehurst 4-9-3 — A Clark 87
6 (2) 061450 Cretan Prophets (13) (D) G Lewis 5-9-0 — Paul Eddery ★ 85
7 (1) 613020 Aoblato (27) T Mills 4-9-12 — Martin Dwyer ★ 86
8 (5) 600053 Caudo Equina (5) (D) M Channon 4-8-12 — Pat Eddery 89
9 (7) 850030 Sharp Imp (21) (D) R Flower 8-8-11 — M Roberts ★ 86

Betting: 6-1 Marengo, 11-2 Shamanic, 8-1 Sharp Imp, 13-2 Caudo Equina

Hamilton tonight

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
7.00	Gold Edge	Dona Filipa
7.25	Cover Girl	Midnight Orchid
7.55	Temper Lad	Tarradale
8.25	Treasure Island	Forty Love
8.55	Night City	Good Hand
9.25	Stylish Ways	Stylish Ways

Going: Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Blinkered first time: 7.55 Temper Lad; 8.25 Sabre Butt. Visored: None.

7.00 CAMERONIANS HANDICAP
5f £2,850 (11 declared)

1 (3) 00-060 Royal Dome (13) (D) M Wane 6-10-0 — J Carroll 88
2 (1) 25-000 Imperial Honey (13) Mrs A Swinbank 3-9-7 — G Duffield 86
3 (5) 230044 Gold Edge (7) Enrico Incisa 4-9-4 — Kim Tinkler 87
4 (4) 0-5000 Bashful Brave (13) (D) B Baugh 7-9-3 — Iona Wands (5) 78
5 (10) 01300- Sandoro (271) (CD) J Eddie 8-9-1 — A McCarthy (3) 83
6 (2) 380325 Young Bon (21) (D) J Wainwright 6-8-11 — W Supple ★ 85
7 (7) 00020 Dubai Nurse (13) A Dickon 4-8-9 — J McInally (7) 87
8 (6) 0008-0 Blazing Imp (19) (D) Mrs J Jordan 5-8-8 — M Fenton 80
9 (8) -00303 Dona Filipa (7) (D) Miss L Siddall 5-8-8 — Dean McKeown ●90
10 (9) -04003 Hasty (6) J Eddie 6-8-6 — A Culhane 86
11 (11) 0-0000 Superfrills (14) Miss L Siddall 5-8-1 — L Charnock 86

Betting: 5-1 Royal Dome, 11-2 Dona Filipa, 6-1 Young Bon, 7-1 Gold Edge, 8-1 Imperial Honey, Sandoro, 9-1 Dubai Nurse, Hasty, 12-1 Bashful Brave

7.25 MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
6f £3,469 (7 declared)

1 (6) Cover Girl Sir M Prescott 8-10 — G Duffield —
2 (2) 642600 Calico Lady (5) W Kemp 8-7 — J Fortune 85
3 (1) Thorntoun Gold M Johnston 8-7 — Dean McKeown —
4 (5) 22 Midnight Orchid (26) J Berry 8-4 — J Carroll ●90
5 (4) 0 Forest Glade (18) M Britain 8-3 — L Charnock 82
6 (3) Scoop Mrs J Ramsden 8-3 — W Supple —
7 (7) Swynford Pleasure J Hetherton 8-3 — N Carlisle —

Betting: 9-4 Midnight Orchid, 3-1 Cover Girl, 7-2 Thorntoun Gold, 6-1 Scoop, 12-1 Forest Glade, 14-1 Calico Lady, Swynford Pleasure.

7.55 STONEHOUSE MAIDEN HANDICAP
1m 65yds £2,983 (16 declared)

1 (2) 04-365 Desert Cat (13) M Wane 5-9-10 — J Weaver 85
2 (1) 0-002 Temper Lad (7) J Gosden 3-9-9 — A McCarthy (3) ★ 85
3 (10) 4000 Lucky Me (8) M Tompkins 3-8-7 — A Nicholls (7) 79
4 (8) 2-0503 Torianca (7) M Wane 3-9-4 — J Carroll 86
5 (15) 20-400 Final Claim (33) J FitzGerald 3-9-2 — L Charnock 82
6 (13) -54006 Wagga Moon (25) M Britain 4-9-1 — D Mernagh (7) 87
7 (12) -22000 Pride Of Bryn (6) D Smith 5-9-13 — O Pears 88
8 (4) 060-04 Dr Woodstock (25) W Storey 4-8-12 — J Fortune 89
9 (5) 00-002 Sadeebah (2) M Johnston 3-8-12 — Dean McKeown 81
10 (11) 004-00 Just Nobby (4) Enrico Incisa 3-8-7 — Kim Tinkler 78
11 (7) 004-50 Jungle Fresh (23) J Bethell 5-8-5 — G Duffield 88
12 (16) 550-04 Tarradale (28) C Booth 4-8-5 — A Culhane ●90
13 (3) 040003 Hey Up Mate (9) J Berry 3-8-5 — Iona Wands (5) 83
14 (14) 800005 Lady Mabel (16) J Bethell 3-8-4 — Darren Moffatt (3) 79
15 (9) 460304 Beau Roberto (8) J Goldie 4-8-3 — W Supple 88
16 (6) 00-003 Stolen Music (8) R Barr 5-7-10 — N Carlisle 81

Betting: 5-1 Temper Lad, 7-1 Torianca, 8-1 Tarradale, Dr Woodstock, Tarradale, 10-1 Desert Cat, Pride Of Bryn, Hey Up Mate, 12-1 Beau Roberto, Just Nobby

8.25 RANCH STABLE CLUB HANDICAP 3YO
1m 3f £2,836 (11 declared)

1 (4) 00-001 Belle With A Zee (18) N Graham 9-7 — L Charnock 85
2 (3) 140005 Pipe Music (7) P Haslam 9-7 — J Weaver 88
3 (5) 4-60 Flight For Freedom (38) F Murphy 9-2 — A McCarthy (3) 82
4 (2) -00226 Forty Love (28) D Moffatt 9-0 — O Pears ★ ●90
5 (1) 000- Sabre Butt (227) M Tompkins 8-13 — A Nicholls (7) ★ 78
6 (10) -00300 Thornbury Belle (13) J Goldie 8-11 — Dean McKeown 83
7 (7) 000-0 Sporty Spice (7) Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 — J Fortune 87
8 (5) 045324 Dungeons Delight (21) B Murray 8-6 — J Carroll ★ 89
9 (9) 000-0 Treasure Island (6) Sir M Prescott 8-4 — G Duffield 88
10 (11) 60-000 Doctor's Gold (27) M Britain 7-10 — D Mernagh (7) 78
11 (8) 0000 Border Starlette (28) Mrs M Reveley 7-10 — N Carlisle 86

Betting: 4-1 Sporty Spice, 5-1 Dungeons Delight, 6-1 Belle With A Zee, Treasure Island, 7-1 Pipe Music, Forty Love, 8-1 Flight For Freedom, 10-1 Thornbury Belle

8.55 HYNDFORD CLAIMING STAKES
1m 4f £3,388 (7 declared)

1 (5) 361001 Night City (48) (C) (D) K Burke 7-9-6 — Dean McKeown 89
2 (2) 4-6135 Braydan (25) (CD) P Monteith 5-8-12 — O Pears 81
3 (3) 40523- Sabre Dancer (J267) R Allan 4-8-12 — J Weaver 88
4 (7) 15-111 Good Hand (2) S Kettlewell 12-8-8 — J Fortune ●90
5 (1) D100-1 Prophets Pride (J19) P Monteith 6-8-6 — D Mernagh (7) 83
6 (6) -00005 Murmaria (26) Enrico Incisa 4-8-3 — Kim Tinkler 84
7 (4) 54424/ Badd Quest (J861) M Wane 6-8-2 — R Lappin —

Betting: 6-4 Night City, 3-1 Good Hand, 11-2 Prophets Pride, 8-1 Braydan, 10-1 Sabre Dancer, 12-1 Murmaria, 20-1 Badd Quest

9.25 AMATEUR RIDERS STAKES
6f £2,775 (6 declared)

1 (1) 504012 Kass Alhawa (6) (D) D Chapman 5-11-13 — Miss R Clark 89
2 (3) 506155 Palacegate Touch (5) (CD) J Berry 8-11-13 — Miss S Kendall (5) ★ 87
3 (2) 000644 Just Bob (6) (C) (D) S Kettlewell 9-11-7 — Miss E Ramsden 88
4 (5) 040021 Naissant (7) (CD) M Wane 5-11-7 — Mrs C Williams (5) 84
5 (4) 30-332 Stylish Ways (11) (D) J Pearce 6-11-7 — Mrs L Pearce ●90
6 (6) 005000 April Jackson (26) P Dalton 4-11-4 — S Harrison (7) 78

Betting: 5-2 Stylish Ways, 3-1 Kass Alhawa, 7-2 Just Bob, 9-2 Naissant

Warwick runners and riders

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.20	Brighstone	Brighstone (nb)
2.50	Twin Creeks	Admirals Flame
3.20	Ticklish	Al Fahda
3.50	Runs In The Family	Sharp Hint
4.20	Silently	Unchanged
4.50	Tokay	By Jay

Going: Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Blinkered first time: 2.20 Java Shrine; 3.20 Spring Pursuit; 4.20 Slip The Net; 4.50 Wanstead. Visored: 3.50 Solo Spirit.

2.20 GAVESTON SELLING STAKES
1m 3f £1,725 (13 declared)

1 (8) 527101 Flying Eagle (11) R Simpson 7-9-12 — M Gallagher 87
2 (7) 641655 Hamilton (7) (CD) B Palling 9-9-12 — Jessica Roberts (7) 85
3 (4) 102-52 Brighstone (11) (BF) M Pipe 5-9-7 — A McGlone ●90
4 (9) 0365-0 Java Shrine (16) P Eccles 7-9-7 — R Perham ★ 85
5 (10) 425000 Kenrayev Dancer (25) A Bailey 6-9-7 — G Carter 78
6 (6) 3033-3 Mad Militant (21) (CD) A Streeter 9-9-7 — M Cotton (7) 89
7 (1) 5000/0 Prince Of Spades (18) M Quinn 5-9-7 — F Norton 78
8 (11) 0-6000 Royale Flash (8) R Marvin 4-9-7 — T G McLaughlin ★ 77
9 (5) 215407 Salbus (1266) G L Moore 8-8-7 — Candy Morris —
10 (12) 00-000 Sweet Treatise (18) M Tate 7-9-7 — V Slattery 77
11 (12) 5-00 Carver John (28) A Barrow 3-8-8 — S Whitworth 89
12 (2) 65 Piccola Mare (12) N Babbage 3-8-8 — B Hind 83
13 (3) 5 Goldenghtsmichelle (22) R Craggs 3-8-3 — D Sweeney 84

Betting: 7-4 Brighstone, 4-1 Flying Eagle, 9-2 Mad Militant, 5-1 Kenrayev Dancer

2.50 UGLY BRIDGE HANDICAP
1m £3,883 (11 declared)

1 (11) 030-00 Green Power (18) (D) N Littmoden 4-10-0 — V Slattery 87
2 (3) 3-2030 Queen's Pageant (93) J Spearing 4-9-11 — M Bixmer 79
3 (8) 22-001 Mustique Dream (16) (D) R Charlton 3-9-5 — G Carter 85
4 (9) -C5030 Indium (22) W Musson 4-9-2 — S Whitworth 86
5 (5) -50424 Twin Creeks (27) (C) (D) (BF) V Soane 7-8-13 — D Biggs 84
6 (2) 131000 Godmersham Park (8) (D) P Felgate 6-8-13 — G Parkin 88
7 (7) -00031 Admirals Flame (8) (6lb ex) (D) C Wall 7-8-11 — G Hind ●90
8 (4) 240302 Incitation (8) (D) M Blanshard 4-8-4 — Dale Gibson 86
9 (10) 000-00 Chasetown Flyer (25) (D) N Berry 4-8-3 — P Bradley (7) 89
10 (7) 000-0- Siena (245) Miss K George 3-8-2 — P Doe (5) 82
11 (3) 20-0F1 May Queen Megan (7) (6lb ex) (D) Mrs A King 5-7-10 — J Quinn 87

Betting: 7-2 Mustique Dream, 6-1 Indium, Admirals Flame, 7-1 Twin Creeks, Incitation, May Queen Megan, 9-1 Green Power, 12-1 Queen's Pageant

3.20 RAYNSFORD AUCTION STAKES 2YO
7f £3,158 (9 declared)

1 (3) 010 Spring Pursuit (8) (C) R Charlton 9-4 — D Harrison ★ 87
2 (8) 012 Al Fahda (21) R Hannon 8-12 — B Perham ●90
3 (4) Battledick B Smart 8-12 — J Stack —
4 (5) Lord Rochester B Millman 8-12 — A Daly (3) —
5 (6) 0 Gypsy (18) M Tompkins 8-9 — D Biggs 85
6 (2) 0 Mice Ideas (11) S Mellor 8-9 — A McGlone 84
7 (7) 641 Susan's Dowry (8) T Easterby 8-7 — W J O'Connor 89
8 (9) Pursang Pearl M Quinn 8-4 — F Norton —
9 (1) 3 Ticklish (15) W Haggas 8-1 — J Quinn 87

Betting: 5-2 Al Fahda, 3-1 Spring Pursuit, 7-2 Susan's Dowry, 11-2 Ticklish, 10-1 Gypsy, 16-1 Lord Rochester, Mice Ideas

3.50 GREENACRES FILLIES' HANDICAP
5f £3,365 (16 declared)

1 (16) 00300- Top Of The Form (232) (D) K Ryan 4-10-0 — S Buckley (7) 86
2 (11) 3-3020 Batchworth Belle (16) E Wheeler 3-9-8 — A Daly (3) 87
3 (1) 1-0000 Solo Spirit (12) J Jenkins 3-9-8 — G Carter ★ 77
4 (2) -02303 Pizzicato (20) (D) R Williams 4-9-1 — B Griffiths (3) 86
5 (8) 003020 Runs In The Family (18) (CD) G McCourt — D Harrison ★ 86
6 (5) 50-005 Antonia's Choice (8) (D) J Berry 4-9-0 — P Bradley (7) 85
7 (6) 040 Sharp Hint (32) J Dunlop 3-8-11 — Paul Eddery ●90
8 (12) 00-350 Fairy Domino (133) (D) M Quinn 3-8-8 — A Mackay 82
9 (13) 011640 Miss Dangerous (9) (D) M Quinn 3-8-9 — F Norton 84
10 (4) 801013 Sunset Harbour (14) (D) (BF) S Kettlewell 5-8-5 — R Mullen (3) 85
11 (7) -00050 Anetta (23) J A Harris 4-8-2 — S Righton (7) ★ 78
12 (6) 104620 Broadway Melody (13) A Jarvis 4-8-2 — D Sweeney 80
13 (3) 00-000 Summer Day Blues (14) C Wall 3-8-1 — G Hind ★ 77
14 (10) 5060-0 Swift Time (16) M R Bosley 3-8-0 — S Drowne 80
15 (14) 230456 Stock Hill Dancer (12) K Burke 4-8-0 — Dale Gibson 83
16 (15) 020-02 Balm Atholl (12) R Hodges 5-7-10 — M Adams 83

Betting: 4-1 Sunset Harbour, 5-1 Sharp Hint, 8-1 Pizzicato, Miss Dangerous, 10-1 Batchworth Belle, Runs In The Family, 12-1 Solo Spirit, Broadway Melody, Balm Atholl, 14-1 Summer Day Blues

4.20 SYD MERCER MEMORIAL HANDICAP
1m 7f £3,785 (9 declared)

1 (5) 222-03 Silently (28) J King 6-9-11 — S Drowne 89
2 (6) 42/450 Slip The Net (11) P Cole 4-9-3 — P Robinson ★ 88
3 (3) 1-8610 Unchanged (8) (D) J A Harris 6-9-2 — D Sweeney ●90
4 (1) 1505-3 Ultimate Smoothie (16) M Pipe 6-8-1 — G Carter 86
5 (9) 000030 Mystic Ridge (14) B Curley 4-8-3 — J Quinn ★ 88
6 (7) -03001 Golden Hadeer (37) (CD) M Ryan 7-8-1 — P Bradley (7) 84
7 (8) 04-002 The Blues Academy (32) M A Buckley 3-7-12 — Dale Gibson 86
8 (4) 20050- Woodland Nymph (J111) D Murray Smith 4-7-12 — R Mullen (3) —
9 (2) 552-65 Planist (13) Miss K George 3-7-10 — P Doe (5) 82

Betting: 2-1 Ultimate Smoothie, 7-2 Silently, 5-1 Mystic Ridge, 6-1 Unchanged, 7-1 Golden Hadeer, 10-1 The Blues Academy, 20-1 Planist

4.50 BLACKBRAKE PLANTATION MAIDEN HANDICAP
1m 4f 115yds £2,931 (13 declared)

1 (5) 300-00 Jalb (23) P Murphy 4-9-12 — S Drowne 78
2 (13) 000 Charlie Chook (14) M Hollineaux 4-9-8 — S Righton (7) 79
3 (12) 060- Catchment (282) Mrs A Perrett 4-9-7 — D Harrison 78
4 (3) 500-02 Herbshan Dancer (18) Simon Earle 4-9-7 — A Daly (3) 87
5 (11) 0-600 Grouche (65) N Babbage 4-9-1 — V Slattery 80
6 (1) 030-60 Miss Vita (23) R Williams 4-9-1 — G Carter 88
7 (6) 0-0304 Suellajoy (12) B Smart 3-8-13 — J Stack 86
8 (2) 03666/ Wanstead (J358) J Jenkins 6-8-13 — F Lynch ★ —
9 (10) 5-3043 Tokay (11) P Cole 3-8-12 — J Quinn 88
10 (9) 000- Broughtons Lore (331) W Musson 4-8-11 — S Whitworth —
11 (4) 4000-2 Flagstaff (16) A Carroll 5-8-8 — R Studholme (5) 87
12 (6) 080-00 Cape Siren (18) M Ryan 4-8-8 — P McCabe 81
13 (7) 000-32 By Jay (7) B Curley 4-8-8 — M Callan (7) ●90

Betting: 7-2 By Jay, 5-1 Herbshan Dancer, 6-1 Tokay, 7-1 Catchment, Flagstaff, 8-1 Jalb, Suellajoy, 10-1 Broughtons Lore

Salisbury programme

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.10	Loch Fyne	Loch Fyne
2.40	Marigliano	Mr Majica
3.10	Yalta	Silk St John
3.40	Doomna	Timbervati
4.10	Generosity	Lucrezia
4.40	Hit The Spot	Hit The Spot

Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Blinkered first time: 4.40 Azulino. Visored: 4.40 Long Island.

2.10 WEYHILL MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
5f £3,539 (19 declared)

1 (8) 4 Addition (14) R Hodges 8-11 — R Ffrench 85
2 (19) 5 Almost Amber (32) J Gosden 8-11 — L Dettori 87
3 (2) 4 Bayonet (23) R Johnson Houghton 8-11 — J Reid 88
4 (6) Giffaline S Dow 8-11 — W Ryan —
5 (10) Indian Secret M Tregoning 8-11 — T Sprake —
6 (14) U05 Jessica (16) A P Jones 8-11 — P P Murphy (3) 83
7 (15) 0 Jonella (16) P Walwyn 8-11 — R Cochrane 79
8 (1) 00 Karaloul (28) M Fetherston-Godley 8-11 — W R Swinburn 78
9 (7) Little Chapel D Ffrench Davis 8-11 — M Roberts —
10 (9) 5 Loch Fyne (38) W Muir 8-11 — K Fallon ●90
11 (4) 0 Miss Rimex (35) D Elsworth 8-11 — N Pollard (7) 81
12 (5) Patsy Stone M Kettle 8-11 — R Hills —
13 (17) 00 Price of Passion (8) D Arbuthnot 8-11 — R Price 86
14 (16) 5 Rosmoor Girl (33) R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill 85
15 (12) 00 Sister Patrice (15) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11 — R Havlin (5) 83
16 (13) 6 Swell Betty (23) R Hannon 8-11 — Pat Eddery 87
17 (18) Tina's Royale H Candy 8-11 — C Rutter —
18 (3) Whitta Madam G L Moore 8-11 — D O'Donohoe —
19 (11) Why Worry Now R Hannon 8-11 — R Hughes —

Betting: 3-1 Almost Amber, 4-1 Loch Fyne, 7-1 Swell Betty, 8-1 Bayonet, 10-1 Rosmoor Girl, 12-1 Tina's Royale, Why Worry Now, 14-1 Miss Rimex

2.40 MARTIN CLAIMING STAKES
1m £2,486 (15 declared)

1 (3) 502046 Mr Majica (14) B Meehan 4-9-8 — Pat Eddery ★ ●90
2 (4) 05-550 Sharp Shuffle (14) (D) R Hannon 5-8-8 — R Hughes 87
3 (1) 3/0-41 Marigliano (8) K Morgan 5-9-7 — R Cochrane 88
4 (8) 242042 Caudillo (15) (D) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-5 — L Dettori 88
5 (10) 0 Eric The King (23) R Simpson 7-8-2 — P P Murphy (3) 79
6 (5) -00840 Famous (11) (D) J Bridger 5-9-1 — G Bardwell 88
7 (9) -10231 Halmanerror (15) (C) G McCourt 8-9-1 — K Fallon 89
8 (7) 014-00 Silver Lining (15) (D) A P Jones 4-8-1 — T Sprake 87
9 (2) 000- Nobby Beach (367) W Muir 4-9-0 — J Reid —
10 (14) 00 Bibben Boy (21) J Neville 6-8-12 — C Carver (7) ★ 78
11 (7) 2020-0 Silver Harrow (153) A Newcombe 5-8-12 — C Teague (3) 88
12 (15) 00-000 Algie O'Byrne (11) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-10 — R Price 77
13 (11) 0040/0 Standing (22) S Woodman 6-8-7 — R Ffrench 88
14 (12) 0-0 Lingfield Dancer (18) A Newcombe 3-8-4 — J Lowe 79
15 (13) 00-350 After Dawn (11) Mrs P Dutfield 3-8-1 — N Pollard (7) 84

Betting: 7-2 Mr Majica, 9-2 Halmanerror, 6-1 Sharp Shuffle, 7-1 Marigliano, 8-1 Caudillo, Silver Harrow, 10-1 Silver Lining, 14-1 After Dawn

3.10 NOEL CANNON MEMORIAL H'CAP
1m £5,414 (7 declared)

1 (6) 4/25-0 Tarski (18) L Cottrell 4-9-12 — M Roberts 84
2 (7) 0-1065 Sleepless (15) N Graham 4-9-9 — L Dettori 88
3 (5) 0-4310 Thedea (51) (D) B Millman 5-9-5 — T Sprake 86
4 (4) 810-23 Yalta (18) (D) (BF) R Charlton 5-9-5 — Pat Eddery ★ 87
5 (1) 2341 Heavenly (18) (D) M Tregoning 3-9-5 — R Hills 85
6 (3) 010121 Silk St John (16) (D) M Ryan 4-9-4 — R Cochrane ●90
7 (2) 302612 Ben Gunn (21) (C) (D) (BF) P Walwyn 6-8-9 — W R Swinburn 89

Betting: 3-1 Heavenly, 9-2 Sleepless, Ben Gunn, 5-1 Thedea, Yalta, 6-1 Silk St John, 14-1 Tarski.

3.40 MARGADALE CONDITIONS STAKES 3YO
7f £4,803 (8 declared)

1 (6) 1- Soltoos (278) (D) L Cumani 9-2 — B Urbina —
2 (5) 10- Mr Cahill (238) (D) Sir M Stoute 9-0 — J Reid 87
3 (7) 21 Spindrift (25) L Cumani 9-0 — R Ffrench 88
4 (4) 1-5 Second Wind (16) P Cole 8-10 — Pat Eddery 86
5 (2) 00 Young-Un (42) S Dow 8-10 — M Roberts 83
6 (1) 1 Pure Gold (11) (D) H Candy 8-9 — C Rutter 85
7 (8) 2-1 Timbervati (28) (D) H Cecil 8-9 — W Ryan ●90
8 (3) 2- Doomna (328) S bin Suroor 8-5 — L Dettori 88

Betting: 5-2 Spindrift, 3-1 Timbervati, 7-2 Doomna, 8-1 Mr Cahill, Pure Gold, 10-1 Soltoos, Second Wind, 33-1 Young-Un.

4.10 GIBBS MEW BIBURY CUP HANDICAP 3YO
1m 4f £7,263 (7 declared)

1 (4) 610-13 Generosity (21) P Cole 9-7 — Pat Eddery 88
2 (6) -03322 Indian Missile (18) (BF) D Chappell 9-6 — K Fallon 89
3 (2) 51 Ormelie (26) P Chapple-Hyam 9-4 — J Reid 84
4 (7) 32-313 Yarabi (25) P Walwyn 9-3 — R Hills 85
5 (3) 21 Lucrezia (12) (D) Sir M Stoute 9-3 — W R Swinburn ●90
6 (5) -50622 Shergazzar (13) R Hannon 8-10 — R Hughes 87
7 (1) -11122 Eastwell Hall (21) R Curtis 8-10 — J Lowe 89

Betting: 3-1 Lucrezia, 9-2 Generosity, Ormelie, 5-1 Eastwell Hall, 6-1 Shergazzar, 7-1 Indian Missile, 8-1 Yarabi.

4.40 SHREWTON MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
7f £2,402 (11 declared)

1 (4) 00-360 Hever Golf Machine (28) T Naughton 9-0 — T Sprake 89
2 (9) 036-04 Long Island (4) K Ivory 9-0 — N Pollard (7) ★ 85
3 (11) 000 Norman Archer (25) V Soane 9-0 — K Hopkins (7) 79
4 (5) 04500- Apple Sauce (288) L Cottrell 8-11 — R Ffrench 82
5 (1) 00-50 Azulino (23) J Hills 8-11 — R Hills ★ 84
6 (8) 0-00 Celebration (35) I Balding 8-11 — W R Swinburn 85
7 (3) 6454-0 Face-Off (28) C Wall 8-11 — J Reid 87
8 (10) 02-062 Hit The Spot (6) W Haggas 8-11 — L Dettori ●90
9 (7) 0-008 Precision Finish (16) J Culhane 8-11 — K Fallon 85
10 (6) 65-050 Pride Of My Heart (23) I Balding 8-11 — W Ryan 86
11 (2) 005-50 Spree Rose (132) K Cunningham-Brown 8-11 — R Price 86

Betting: 3-1 Hit The Spot, 4-1 Hever Golf Machine, 7-1 Face-Off, 8-1 Long Island, Pride Of My Heart, 10-1 Azulino, Precision Finish, Spree Rose

Chester tonight

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
6.45	Break The Rules (nap)	Pas Des Memoires
7.15	Sharera	Sharera
7.45	Superior Premium	Superior Premium (nap)
8.15	Paula's Joy	Entropy
8.45	Extravaganza	Sharp Sarah
9.15	Peter's Imp	Lindesberg

Going: Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Blinkered first time or visored: None.

6.45 YELLOW LABEL CLAIMING STAKES — SKY
1m 2f 75yds £3,630 (8 declared)

1 (1) 063103 Break The Rules (21) (CD) (BF) D Nichols 6-9-4 — F Norton 89
2 (6) 004605 I Can't Remember (21) (C) P Evans 4-9-3 — J F Egan 84
3 (2) 0-0060 Wentbridge Lad (18) (C) (D) (BF) W Brisbourne 8-8-3 — K Darley ★ 81
4 (7) 213-00 Bluebell Miss (28) (D) A Streeter 4-9-0 — R Havlin (3) 83
5 (4) 00600/ Flood's Fancy (J27) L Barratt 5-8-0 — J Bosley (7) —
6 (8) 01 Big Wheel (28) (D) M Pipe 3-8-11 — D Holland 86
7 (3) 06-603 Swan Island (7) W Brisbourne 4-8-11 — D Sweeney ★ 80
8 (5) 06211- Pas de Memoires (215) M Bielby 3-8-8 — G Hind ●90

Betting: 7-4 Break The Rules, 7-2 Big Wheel, 9-2 Pas De Memoires, 6-1 I Can't Remember, 8-1 Wentbridge Lad, 10-1 Swan Island, 12-1 Bluebell Miss, 33-1 Flood's Fancy.

7.15 LA GRANDE DAME ROSE FILLIES' H'CAP — SKY
1m 4f 66yds £3,454 (6 declared)

1 (1) 21-026 Mono Lady (29) (D) D Haydn Jones 5-9-10 — A Mackay ★ 88
2 (2) 2-342 The Wild Widow (16) J Eustace 4-9-9 — J Tate 88
3 (4) 4-1 Sharera (41) L Cumani 3-9-7 — K Darley ●90
4 (5) 545-21 Marchan Tyne (25) (D) E Alston 5-8-13 — C Lowther 88
5 (5) 162055 Tycoon Tina (7) (D) W Brisbourne 4-8-7 — J Bramhill 87
6 (3) 400-20 Clued Up (18) (BF) P Evans 5-8-5 — J F Egan ★ 88

Betting: 15-8 Sharera, 7-2 Mono Lady, Marchan Tyne, 9-2 The Wild Widow, 5-1 Clued Up, 16-1 Tycoon Tina.

7.45 LE PRIX DE LA GRANDE DAME RATED STAKES H'CAP — SKY
6f £9,226 (11 declared)

1 (2) -02003 Superior Premium (5) R Fahey 4-9-7 — R Winston (5) ●90
2 (8) 010306 The Gay Fox (12) (C) B McMahon 4-8-6 — L Newton 84
3 (10) -00150 Astrac (5) (D) D Nicholls 7-8-4 — Alex Greaves 85
4 (1) 654031 Nomore Mr Niceguy (21) (C) E Alston 4-9-3 — K Darley 87
5 (4) 202200 Ziggy's Dancer (28) (C) (D) E Alston 7-9-0 — S D Williams 86
6 (7) 0-0300 Albert The Bear (21) (C) (D) J Berry 5-8-12 — C Lowther ★ 87
7 (9) -04011 Five Of Spades (21) (D) R Fahey 3-8-11 — M Hills 89
8 (11) -03266 Tiler (28) (BF) M Johnston 6-8-7 — D Holland 88
9 (6) 014540 Sarico (12) (D) P Evans 4-8-7 — J F Egan ★ 86
10 (5) 060625 Napoleon Star (2) (D) Miss J Craze 7-8-7 — A Mackay ★ 79
11 (3) 511520 Bodfari Pride (11) (C) A Bailey 3-8-3 — R Mullen (3) 89

Betting: 9-2 Superior Premium, 5-1 Nomore Mr Niceguy, Five Of Spades, 7-1 Astrac, 8-1 The Gay Fox, Albert The Bear, Tiler, 10-1 Bodfari Pride, Ziggy's Dancer

8.15 WIDOW NOVICE STAKES 2YO — SKY
5f £3,474 (9 declared)

1 (4) 1342 Bon Ami (8) (D) J Berry 9-0 — P Bradley (7) 85
2 (6) 3103 Paula's Joy (8) (D) M Channon 8-13 — A Mackay 88
3 (8) 1631 Snap Cracker (11) (D) M Quinn 8-13 — F Norton 86
4 (5) 35 Colonel Sam (29) (BF) J Glover 8-12 — S D Williams 84
5 (1) 3 Upper Chamber (13) J FitzGerald 8-12 — K Darley 83
6 (3) 6032 Diletto (21) E Alston 8-7 — C Lowther 85
7 (2) 32 Entropy (18) R Hannon 8-7 — M Hills ●90
8 (7) 603 Risky Experience (21) P Evans 8-7 — J F Egan 85
9 (9) The Rain Lady R Hollinshead 8-7 — D Sweeney —

Betting: 3-1 Entropy, 9-2 Paula's Joy, 5-1 Diletto, Bon Ami, 7-1 Colonel Sam, 8-1 Upper Chamber, Risky Experience, 10-1 Snap Cracker

8.45 PONSARDIN MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 5f 89yds £3,435 (5 declared)

1 (1) Extravaganza P Cole 9-0 — K Darley —
2 (2) 5060-0 Tadeyo (7) P Evans 9-0 — J F Egan 88
3 (3) Fairy Tree M Johnston 8-9 — D Holland —
4 (5) 202200 Ruby Bear (18) W Brisbourne 8-9 — D Sweeney 84
5 (4) 003 Sharp Sarah (34) B Hills 8-9 — M Hills ●90

Betting: 2-1 Extravaganza, 11-4 Fairy Tree, 3-1 Sharp Sarah, 6-1 Ruby Bear, 10-1 Tadeyo

9.15 RICH RESERVE HANDICAP 3YO
7f £3,571 (11 declared)

1 (8) 0-0002 Rushwood (12) (C) R Hannon 9-7 — K Darley 86
2 (8) 5-4253 Kriscombo (11) B Meehan 9-5 — J Tate 84
3 (1) 030-00 Peter's Imp (11) J Berry 9-3 — C Lowther 87
4 (6) -00540 Third Cousin (36) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 — S Drowne 89
5 (10) 03-104 Desert Mirage (39) P Chapple-Hyam 8-13 — D Holland 86
6 (4) -02030 Pierpoint (11) D Nicholls 8-10 — F Norton 88
7 (9) 500200 Demolition Jo (11) (D) P Evans 8-10 — J F Egan ★ 87
8 (5) 040003 Aberkeen (4) M Dods 8-7 — Dale Gibson 83
9 (7) 52-240 Lindesberg (33) (BF) M Johnston 8-7 — M Hills ●90
10 (2) 00-005 Ile Ne Respectie (21) B McMahon 7-10 — N Varley 81
11 (11) 324200 Technician (28) E Alston 7-10 — A Mackay ★ 82

Betting: 7-2 Rushwood, 9-2 Desert Mirage, 7-1 Kriscombo, Demolition Jo, 8-1 Third Cousin, Pierpoint, 9-1 Lindesberg, 10-1 Aberkeen

Results

LINGFIELD

2.00 (1m 2f): 1, PERFECT POPPY, R Smith (25-1); 2, Romana Reel (7-2 jt-fav); 3, English Invader (6-1). 7-2 jt-fav Monument. 12 ran 5, ¾. (S Dow) Tote: £15.40; £2.90, £2.10, £1.80. Dual F: £34.10. Trio: £184.10. CSF: £91.14. Tricast: £552.90. NR: Haydn James.

2.30 (1m 2f): 1, PASSIONATE PURSUIT, M Roberts (10-1); 2, Hever Golf Passion (5-1); 3, Starbrook (25-1). 11-10 fav Bounteous. 10 ran 5, 2½. (S Dow) Tote: £12.80; £2.40, £1.20, £3.10. Dual F: £26.30. Trio: £173.00. CSF: £53.05.

3.00 (5f): 1, SAAFEND ROCK, R Hughes (10-1); 2, Xsynna (16-1); 3, Lunar Prospector (9-4 fav). 12 ran 1½, ¾. (R Hannon) Tote: £13.50; £2.50, £5.00, £1.50. Dual F: £90.90. Trio: £312.20. CSF: £151.09.

3.30 (6f): 1, ZEPPO, A McCarthy (12-1); 2, Easter Ogil (9-2); 3, Madame Jones (5-2 fav). 11 ran Shd, hd. (B Millman) Tote: £11.90; £2.90, £2.00, £1.40. Dual F: £40.60. Trio: £48.50. CSF: £61.25. Tricast: £170.22. NR: Oh Hebe.

4.00 (1m): 1, SEA SPOUSE, Dale Gibson (13-2); 2, Bapsford (8-1); 3, Mr Neverminded (10-11 fav). 8 ran 1½, 3. (M Blanshard) Tote: £8.50; £1.20, £1.70, £1.50. Dual F: £40.10. CSF: £53.32.

4.30 (1m 3f 106yds): 1, SLIPPER, R Ffrench (9-1); 2, In The Sun (9-2); 3, Clevlty (7-2). 11-10 fav Reine Cerise. 7 ran 1, 1½. (L Cumani) Tote: £5.40; £2.40, £2.60. Dual F: £12.40. CSF: £45.97.

JACKPOT: Not won, £10,894.29 carried forward to Carlisle.

PLACEPOT: £504.80.

QUADPOT: £37.60.

BEVERLEY

2.15 (7f 100yds): 1, THREE GREEN LEAVES, J Fanning (5-4 fav); 2, Eldmo Heights (5-2); 3, Amistad (9-1). 9 ran 6, 1½. (M Johnston) Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £1.40, £2.20. Dual F: £2.00. Trio: £8.00. CSF: £4.60. NR: En Grisaille.

2.45 (1m 3f 216yds): 1, GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT, Dean McKeown (7-2); 2, Nosicari (7-1); 3, Tykeyvor (8-11 fav). 5 ran ¾, 1½. (N Tinkler) Tote: £3.80; £1.10, £2.60. Dual F: £10.50. CSF: £23.06.

3.15 (1m 3f 216yds): 1, FANTAIL, D Biggs (13-8 fav); 2, Sandbaggedagain (8-1); 3, Winsome George (5-2). 4 ran 3½, 5. (M Tompkins) Tote: £2.90; Dual F: £8.10. CSF: £10.00.

3.45 (1m 1f 207yds): 1, ROBORANT, K Fallon (3-1); 2, Rasd (11-2); 3, Tonnerre (8-1). 6-4 fav Loyal Toast. 9 ran Nk, 1½. (J Dunlop) Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £1.50, £2.00. Dual F: £10.00. Trio: £12.80. CSF: £19.25. Tricast: £88.66. NR: Ile Distinct.

4.15 (1m 100yds): 1, HARMONY, L Dettori (11-8 fav); 2, Bolshoi Star (16-1); 3, Forest Dream (8-1). 7 ran 6, 1½. (L Cumani) Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £3. Dual F: £26.20. CSF: £21.45.

4.45 (5f): 1, DISTANT KING, P Goode (7-1); 2, Sealed By Fate (16-1); 3, Haybarner (3-1 fav). 13 ran Nk, 5. (G Kelly) Tote: £6.60; £2.00, £8.10, £1.50. Dual F: £108.00. Trio: £188.30. CSF: £108.52. Tricast: £379.23. NR: Mystical Rodge.

5.15 (7f 100yds): 1, CATCH ME, L Charnock (3-1 jt-fav); 2, Swiss Toni (12-1); 3, Way Back (6-1). 3-1 jt-fav Fanetta. 10 ran 1, 3½. (T Easterby) Tote: £5.00; £1.30, £8.10, £2.70. Dual F: £56.60. Trio: £178.70. CSF: £43.99.

PLACEPOT: £150.70.

QUADPOT: £26.40.

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Football

'Attilio stays with Palace' pledge

MARK GOLDBERG, Crystal Palace's new chairman, has assured supporters that Attilio Lombardo will be staying at Selhurst Park.

Lombardo stepped down as player-manager when Palace were relegated and there were rumours that he would leave. But Goldberg said: "I am convinced Attilio has his mind focused on Palace. He recognised we are going to be acting in a far more professional manner this season."

Goldberg also dismissed speculation surrounding the forward Matt Jansen. "We received quite attractive offers from Southampton and another Premiership club, but I am convinced Matt will be staying," he said.

"Although our manager Terry Venables is at the World Cup we are on the phone two or three times a day and he is building a portfolio of players he wishes to bring to the club."

Everton shareholders have appealed to Peter Johnson to end the uncertainty hanging over the club. The chairman, expected back from a holiday in the South of France this week, will be told to back or sack the manager Howard Kendall.

Johnson's return comes amid claims that attempts have been made to encourage a major property group to put in an offer for the club.

Tony Tighe, spokesman for the Everton Shareholders' Association, who are forcing an emergency general meeting to bring Johnson to account, said: "The players are back for pre-season training in about a fortnight. They have to know who is their manager.

"I recall when Mike Walker was under pressure a couple of years back that Johnson said how terrible it was for the man to keep reading every day that his job was under threat. Well, that is exactly the same thing that has happened to Kendall."

Charlton Athletic have made the West Bromwich Albion striker Andy Hunt their second summer signing. Hunt, a free transfer under the Bosman ruling, follows Chris Powell, signed from Derby on Monday for a Valley record of £825,000.

Powell, meanwhile, is expected to be replaced by the German defender Stefan Schnoor, who yesterday became Derby's latest foreign recruit when he completed his move from Hamburg. The 27-year-old, who agreed to join Derby on a free transfer several weeks ago, is the club's 12th import.

Derby's manager Jim Smith said: "We have been looking for left-sided players to strengthen the squad and a friend of mine who recommended Mart Poom to us said there was a very good player at Hamburg available under the Bosman ruling.

"When I watched Stefan play I saw some very good qualities. He has a very educated left foot, reads the game well and takes responsibility from set-plays."

Aston Villa have beaten off competition from three other clubs, including Milan, to make their second signing of the close season. Two weeks after capturing Alan Thompson from Bolton they strengthened their midfield by signing the 18-year-old Fabio Ferraresi on a free transfer from Cesena.

Sky will begin live coverage of the Nationwide League next season with Ipswich's trip to the newly promoted Grimsby in the First Division on August 9.

Sky will screen 65 live games from the three Nationwide divisions, including all three end-of-season Wembley play-offs.



Going it alone . . . Adrian Cashmore, the Maoris' full-back, fends off opposition from all sides during the match in Rotorua PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROGERS

Tour match: New Zealand Maoris 62 England XV 14

England willing but far from able

Robert Armstrong in Rotorua on another painful lesson for under-strength tourists

ENGLAND, overpowered and outclassed, nevertheless showed extraordinary fighting spirit against a richly gifted Maori side before going down by nine tries to two yesterday.

England's scores, by Spencer Brown and the captain Tony Diprose, came in the final quarter after they had conceded 50 points without reply despite spending lengthy periods on the attack.

It was another painful lesson for what was in effect England's third-string line-up, underlining their lack of power in first-up tackles as well as the rucks and mauls.

England certainly deserved to lose by a substantial margin but, that said, three of the Maori tries involved forward passes and when the tourists did threaten they were often penalised for technical offences or spilled the ball on contact.

Unfortunately the valuable experience of competing against a side studded with Super 12 players will have done little for England's prospects in this Saturday's second Test against the All Blacks at Eden Park. Potential playmakers such as Alex King and the full-back Tim Stimpson were unable to drum up the creative spark that might have put the Maoris under sustained pressure in the first half.

In fact Jos Baxendell, who switched from centre to fly-half after the break, may well have played himself into the Test team, particularly if Jonny Wilkinson's leg injury fails to improve. Brown, who worked hard on the right wing, may replace Stimpson in the Test while Josh Lewsey, rested last night, will probably keep his Test place at centre or fly-half.

England gave a courageous display among the forwards, especially after Steve Ojomoh replaced Richard Pool-Jones, who was taken to hospital just before half-time to have a leg injury X-rayed. Dave Sims, who stayed on the bench throughout, rather than his combative Gloucester team-mate Rob Fidler, will be favourite to take the place of the suspended Danny Grewcock, the England manager having decided not to appeal against his five-week ban for stamping.

"It was a dispointing result," admitted Diprose. "We missed 24 tackles while the Maoris missed only four. We will just have to learn how to play better with the ball and without it. We didn't see it for the first 20 minutes and later we came away without getting any points on the board afer spending 20 minutes in their half."

The hard-running, big-hitting Maoris proved hugely competitive in both defence and attack, frequently holding up the England pack a metre or so from their line when a try was threatened. The Maori props were mobile and skilled with ball in hand and their captain Errol Brain was furious that Diprose finally rumbled over the home line two minutes form the end.

The Maoris need hardly have worried, given the searing pace of the centre Norman Berryman, scorer of two long-range tries, and the all-round skills of the full-back Adrian Cashmore, whose 22 points included a try, seven conversions and a penalty.

Assisted by the referee's casual application of the laws on offside and forward passes, the hosts brushed aside England with 17 points in the opening quarter and a 17-minute salvo of four exciting tries shortly after the break.

The England manager Roger Uttley said: "Our spirit has been magnificent despite the setbacks, but the game exposed various inadequacies in our play. The opposition were stronger, fitter and more dynamic than we were. We must take a lot of tonight's lessons on board in the build-up to next year's World Cup."

Meanwhile, England will almost certainly continue with the policy started last week by the coach Clive Woodward of delaying the announcement of their Test side until an hour before the kick-off.

The tourists may be finding it hard to outwit their opponents on the pitch but off it they have managed to irritate the New Zealand Rugby Football Union by withholding their list of 15 names. England, though, are still as far away from their first tour win as they were when they left Heathrow four weeks ago.

SCORERS: NZ Maoris. Tries: Coe, T Brown, Berryman 2, Seymour, Duggan. Cashmore, Marsh, Randle. **Conversions:** Cashmore 7. **Penalty:** Cashmore. **England: Tries:** S Brown, Diprose. **Conversions:** Simpson 2

New Zealand Maoris: Cashmore; Randle, Berryman, Marsh, Gibson (Kerr, 41min); T Duggan, Nepia (Lidgard, 70), McFarland, Meeuws, Flavell, Coe, Parker (Walker, 63), Seymour, Brain (capt).
England: Stimpson; Brown, Baxendell, Ravenscroft, Mooro, King (Bolm, 46), Richards (Benton, 46), Windo, Greening, Crompton, Shurnham, Fidler, Pool-Jones (Ojomoh, 38), Moody, Diprose (capt).
Referee: P MacFie (Southland).

Tourists will go home shell-shocked, says Brain

THE Maoris captain Errol Brain sympathised with England's fifth successive defeat but said he had expected a better display from the tourists.

"I think some of the England players will take a long time to recover — they will probably go home shell-shocked," he said. "To be honest, I expected more from them.

"We'd anticipated a torrid time in the set-pieces, but it never came, and I also found it bizarre that a dangerous player like Spencer Brown hardly got possession.

"To develop players, you need experienced guys around them, and England haven't had that out here."

The game's north-south divide was inevitably a post-match talking point. "You are talking about far greater strength and power between southern and northern hemispheres — there are some startling differences," said Brian Ashton, who supervised England yesterday in the absence of Clive Woodward, who is on bereavement leave.

"The guys down here use far more width, and it becomes a different ball game. If you miss tackles, you are punished," added the former Bath and Ireland coach.

Gauteng Falcons 39 Wales XV 37

Thomas off as 14-man Wales go close

Paul Rees

WALES crashed to their fourth defeat in as many matches in South Africa when they were downed by the Falcons in an exciting finish to an undistinguished match at Vanderbijlpark last night.

The tourists' chances slumped when Dean Thomas, their called-up flanker who had only been in the country 36 hours, was sent off on the hour for a high tackle that dazed the wing Len van Riet.

Wales conceded two soft tries in the opening 10 minutes, the Falcons scoring from their first attack. After a forward drive had been held up on the Wales line, the ball was moved right where the centre Eugene Meyer planted a deft chip for the wing Werner Geyer to collect and cross.

Then Geyer's sinewy running beat the defence to set up the flanker De Wet Strydom who took an inside pass and scored with the Welsh defence scattered.

Byron Hayward landed two penalties but ball retention and naive defending continued to let Wales down. The Falcons are one of the country's weakest provinces but they found space with alarming regularity: straight from the kick-off after Hayward's second penalty, the home scrum-half Deon De Kock ambled through with the centre Wynard Lourens one of three players waiting wide out on the right for the scoring pass.

After a poor second quarter Wales clawed back to turn round 17-13 when the centre John Funnell waltzed through some weak tackling to score in stoppage time.

The lock Paul Arnold put the Welsh into the lead for the first time after the interval when he crossed to cap a rare bout of interpassing between forwards and backs. For a few minutes then Wales looked useful, Paul John controlling tactics adroitly from scrum-half, but the Falcons hit back with a forward surge finished off by the replacement prop Brent Moyle.

Van Straaten's penalty came just before Thomas's dangerous tackle but Hayward replied to cut the deficit to four points before the Falcons produced the move of the match, Lourens making a 40-yard break which was finished off by Geyer.

Gauteng's basic errors kept Wales in the match and two late tries by Lenny Woodard and Mark Taylor set up a tense finish but the Falcons held on thanks to a try by the replacement Marius Booysen.

SCORERS: Gauteng Falcons: Tries: Geyer 2, Strydom, Lourens, Moyle, Booysen **Conversions:** Van Straaten 2, Van As **Penalty:** Van Straaten **Wales: Tries:** Funnell, Arnold, Woodard, M Taylor **Conversions:** Hayward 2 **Penalties:** Hayward 3

GAUTENG FALCONS: Matthyt, Geyer, Lourens, Meyer (capt), Van Riet, Van Straaten, De Kock; Williamson, Van der Walt, Le Roux, Schroder, Boardman, Strydom, Volschenk, Rossouw.
WALES: Williams (Llanelli), Rees (Swansea), G Evans (Neath) Funnell, Woodard, Hayward (all Ebbw Vale), John (Pontypridd), Morris (Neath), Jenkins (Swansea, capt), S Evans (Neath), Arnold (Swansea), Stephens (Bridgend), Lewis (Pontypridd), Thomas (Swansea), Wyatt (Llanelli)
Referee: C Spanenberg (SA).

Cricket

Home James as politics leans to left



IF STEVE JAMES, the England debutant at Lord's, never plays a Test match again — and right now that looks more probable than possible — he will still not remotely be the unluckiest Glamorgan opener of all time.

Alan Jones was one of the most consistent batsmen in post-war county cricket. He played over 27 seasons between 1957 and 1983 and passed 1,000 runs in 23 of them, a record that puts him up among the all-time greats. He is 33rd on the all-time run-getting list, and every one of those above him played Test cricket.

Jones thought he had too. He was picked to open the batting at Lord's in 1970 against the Rest of the World team, which was hastily assembled when the South African tour was called off at short notice.

If a more terrifying group of men has ever walked on to a cricket field, it is hard to know when it was: Mike Procter, who once hit six hundreds in a row, was at No. 9.

Jones was out for five and nought, and that was all, she wrote. Except that it was then rubbed out. The Rest of the World games were assumed to be Tests at the time, and Jones was given an England blazer. Later, they were downgraded. Only Test countries, it was decided, could play Test cricket. All the other England players were picked for other series; Jones uniquely was stripped of his rank and reduced to a footnote.

There might have been a case for playing him again last week. At 59, he remains pretty trim and he is a left-hander. What was obvious at Edgbaston was that the South African fast bowlers were thrown into disarray by the mere *sight* of a right-left opening pair.

As soon as James took guard right-handed, they had regained some of the initiative they had lost in the first Test. Yet a left-hander was available in Nick Knight who, like Jonty Rhodes, is worth 20- or 30-odd runs for his fielding, anyway. It was a bizarre and alarming decision.

Selection panels may be divided into three categories. The best know the precise identity of the top players in the country; they will juggle them a little, allowing for injuries, prevailing conditions and extreme fluctuations in form, but will not otherwise be deflected. They back quality cricketers and keep picking people they know will come right in the end. They take limited notice of the first-class averages, and no notice whatever of scribblers.

The next group, which is more customary in this country, will duck and dive, bob and weave. They will panic when an established batsman gets a couple of noughts and start picking Scroggins or Bloggins who made a hundred last week. They sometimes look as though they are being influenced by the press. But this is usually a more complex process than it seems. The newspapers may be running "SEND FOR SCROGGINS" pieces, but this is often because a selector has quietly whispered that he is in the frame, anyway.

The worst of all are so utterly confused that they really will start picking the players recommended in the papers. This has happened, but not all that often. The current panel — David Graveney, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, with *Alec Stewart on hand and* David Lloyd making noises off — appear to be sliding, after a promising start, from Category One to Category Two. Graveney has begun to talk about the importance of form, and studying it too closely: hence the James business.

These selectors at least know the identities of England's three best fast bowlers; they just can't get them on the field all at once. Twice, against West Indies in 1995, Cork, Gough and Fraser really did take the field as a threesome. But there is no recent evidence to contradict the view that Cork and Gough, like Clark Kent and Superman, are in fact the same person (though it is unclear which half is which).

THERE is not much between England and South Africa at full strength. If anything, England have the classier batsmen. But the South African batting has this astonishing elasticity; they don't exactly have Procter at No.9, but by most standards Lance Klusener is a pretty formidable stand-in. They also have athleticism, adaptability and discipline.

England, on the hand, can degenerate into a rabble at any moment, as they did on Sunday afternoon. This series is far from over, but Old Trafford next week is a big, big game for Stewart — and the selectors.

Cheshire pitch Flower into NatWest test against Essex

MINOR county sides will give their all in today's first round of the NatWest Trophy, but the usual collection of electricians, decorators and other part-timers will face celebrated exponents of the game more in hope than anticipation.

Cheshire, the last genuine shock winners 11 years ago, entertain Essex, the holders, who are likely to drop Darren Robinson to make way for Nasser Hussain.

Cheshire have strengthened their line-up by rushing through the registration of the Zimbabwe Test player Grant Flower. "We like to reward the lads who have got us this far but we also have to compete," said David Sharp, a Cheshire spokesman.

Warwickshire, last year's beaten finalists, will give a fitness test to Ed Giddins, who has a thigh injury, before their match against Ireland at Edgbaston.

Wayne Larkins, the former England batsman, will spearhead Bedfordshire's challenge against Glamorgan at Cardiff and at The Oval Buckinghamshire face Surrey, who will give a late fitness test to their opener Mark Butcher.

Kent will give a NatWest debut to their in-form 19-year-old opener Robert Key against Cambridgeshire at Canterbury.

Prospective giantkillings aside, most interest will focus on Old Trafford where Lancashire, captained by Wasim Akram, entertain Sussex, led by Chris Adams. The two clashed in a highly-publicised incident during the lunch break when Lancashire met Derbyshire — then Adams's club — in the 1993 Benson and Hedges Cup final. To add extra spice to today's encounter, Sussex beat Lancashire in last year's NatWest.

John Crawley will deputise for Lancashire's injured wicketkeeper Warren Hegg while Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin will return after injury and Mike Atherton from England duty.

Gloucestershire, facing Northamptonshire at Bristol in the only other all first-class tie, welcome back the pace-man Courtney Walsh.



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Guardian Wednesday June 24 1998
Wimbledon 98
...Keating on a tough day at...
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Today's weather
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...MMX ACPset
...SDRAM, expandable
...Cache
...Ultra ATA Hard Drive
...Floppy Disk Drive
...20x max 90ms
...AGP Graphics
...with Hardware
...Audio PCI™ 64V
...Speakers
...Winmodem™ with x2™ Technology
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هكذا من الاصل

Wimbledon 98

Frank Keating on a tough day at the office for a 17-year-old defending champion already past that first fine careless rapture

No easy ride for Hingis for starters

TWELVE months on and the toothy tomboy smile is just a jot less wide and uninhibited. The brow can become furrowed and fretful. All very different from last July.

Martina Hingis readily admits it is mighty different being a defending champion rather than a teenaged challenger free of care. In the end yesterday she won her opening match in straight sets but it was cruelly split down the middle from taut and dangerous to routine by an extended rain break.

All in all Hingis's 7–5, 6–3 victory over the skilful American stroke-player Lisa Raymond suggested that the champion's laurels do not yet sit too comfortably on her young shoulders — particularly as a more matronly clan is gathering with intent, and the 1998 ladies' singles vintage is a much more tasty and matured one than last year's.

The Swiss knows it and readily admitted: "It all feels so different being back as champion. For a start, it was a real surprise to bump into Steffi yesterday at practice. It is all going to be very different from last year.

"It is one thing to be No. 1, but to be favourite for Wimbledon is a different thing altogether. As well, I practised yesterday with Arantxa [Sanchez Vicario] and she seems confident. So she should be — she is still so full of winning in France. After that I could only go home and get into the mountains and away from tennis for two or three days. I needed to get it out of my system for a while." A touch uneasy lies the head . . .

As well as Sanchez Vicario plus Graf and Monica Seles (who are likely to contest the quarters next week), Jana Novotna, another older hand, is building support already. Yesterday she easily defeated her fellow Czech Sandra Kleinova 6–2, 6–2; she knows she must make something serious happen in a Grand Slam before she fades away to be remembered only as the losing finalist who wept on the Duchess of Kent's shoulders after surrendering to nerves and Graf when a mile ahead in 1993. For Novotna that would be as stark an epitaph as Gussy Moran's "first to wear frilly knickers" or Jan Lehane's "first to play the double-handed backhand".

Yesterday there was the sniff of a serious upset as the champion brooded with her game against an opponent who had beaten her last time out in Zurich on the carpet. Yesterday the 24-year-old Raymond showed herself just as competitive on greasy grass as Hingis allowed herself to be painted into the corners; mind you, just as many times she fiercely painted herself out again.

The American could be excused for cursing this first-up match against a champion, for she is ranked 19th and so missed out on a seeding by a sliver. But the more she seemed to have caged Hingis, the more she opened the door.

Raymond had Hingis serving at 15–40 in the fifth game but then allowed a triple defiance of winners, glorious in themselves, from the back court. In the 10th game — point, counterpoint; punch, counterpunch — Raymond again broke back to level at 5–5 with a deep forehand fizzer which Hingis, at full pelt, was unable to dig out. The crowd was now cooing between points, sensing a turn-up.

"C'mon, Martina!" bellowed a despairing baritone from the bleachers. On cue the champion pulled herself together and closed out the set with the most resplendent forehand pass on the run, which clipped the American's distant backhand corner.

Then came the rain break, and the spell and the feisty challenge was broken. Hingis watched the football on television in the dressing room, while Raymond changed her scarlet bandeau for a less vivid mushy-pea green. Her game likewise paled.

She admitted as much: "The stoppage really upset my game. I came back so much looser. In the first set she was very nervous but still managed to win the big points. I was on a heightened edge too, nervous as well as thrilled. I have played in all the Grand Slam main courts but there is nothing to beat this one. As you wind up your service you can hear a pin drop, nobody talking. It's certainly not like that in New York.

"I sense Martina will be pretty vulnerable here. She's still got quite a lot to prove and I think it's pretty damned open this year all right." We shall see.



Stretching and fetching . . . Martina Hingis is pushed wide to play a forehand during her 7-5, 6-3 first-round win over Lisa Raymond of the United States PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN LAMARQUE

Today's weather

Temperature

- Dry but cloudy start
- Sunshine at lunchtime
- Light rain throughout the afternoon
- Clearing in the evening

18 – 22°C with a light to moderate South-westerly wind

Cowan fails to finish the job

Richard Jago

BARRY COWAN was yesterday not far from achieving what Boris Becker failed to do. The British No. 9 held four points for a two-set lead against Hendrik Dreekmann, whose victory over the three times former champion a fortnight ago dissuaded Becker from taking the Wimbledon wild card that was being kept for him until the last moment.

Cowan was a set all and 3–5 down in the third to the young German when play was halted by rain for the second and last time. But not long before he had been a set and 4–1 up and in the second-set tie-break up by 6–5, 7–6, 8–7 and 9–8, with two of these set points on his serve.

But when it mattered most the 23-year-old could not make his fierce, swinging left-handed delivery count. On one of the set points his second serve was drilled through him at the net and on another he slipped and fell trying to reach the return.

Cowan lost the crucial mini-break and his chance of taking the second set with a double-fault — reminiscent of the four edgy doubles he had served when he had been serving for the first set at 5–4.

But there was much to admire about his forthright game. He saved a set point at 5–6 with a surging serve and a volley taken admirably close in, and played his most effective tennis after a rain delay in the middle of the first-set tie-break.

This disconcerted his opponent so much that when Dreekmann had lost the set and sat down he berated the umpire. "All the calls are for him," he complained. "You don't do one call for me."

Dreekmann, still grumpy, lost his serve four games later and if Cowan had clung to that advantage he might well have gained a winning position. Instead the rain came at no bad time for him, offering a chance to rethink and regain momentum today.

Nicolas Kiefer, who has succeeded Becker as the leading German, won 6–2, 6–2, 6–3 against Julian Alonso, whose coach Pato Alvarez has predicted that the Spaniard will shortly reach the top 20. But he gave him a ticking-off because Alonso's relationship with Martina Hingis had, he claimed, affected his on-court performances.

"It's so wonderful to be in love for the first time," Hingis was recently quoted as saying. A run of poor results appeared to have ended last week when Alonso won the title in Bologna, but yesterday's wandering effort suggested he feels much as Hingis does.

Tuesday's results

Men's Singles

Holder: P Sampras (US, 1)

First round

(Seeds in capitals)

N Kiefer (Ger) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6–2, 6–2, 6–3; T A Woodbridge (Aus) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6–1, 6–2, 6–1; M Larsson (Swe) bt M Filippini (Uru) 7–6, 6–1, 6–4; S Smyczek (Arm) bt A Portas (Sp) 5–0, 7–5, 6–2; P RAFTER (Aus, 5) bt J Haubarger (Switz) 6–1, 6–2, 4–6, 6–1; S Grosjean (Fr) bt M Damm (Cz) 6–3, 7–6, 6–3; R KRAJICEK (Neth, 9) leads B Steven (NZ) 6–3, 7–6 unfinished; M Draper (Aus) leads G RUSEDSKI (GB, 4) 4–6, 6–2, 6–4 unfinished; J BJORKMAN (Swe, 11) leads D Dilucia (US) 6–4, 0–1 unfinished; A Medvedev (Ukr) leads M Safin (Rus) 6–3, 1–0 unfinished; H Dreekman (Ger) leads B Cowan (GB) 6–7, 7–6, 5–3 unfinished; A Costa (Sp) leads M Norman (Swe) 7–5, 7–5, 4–3 unfinished; J Van Lottum (Neth) leads G Raoux (Fr) 7–6, 6–3, 4–6, 1–1 unfinished; S Pescosolido (It) leads J A Marin (Cro) 6–2, 4–1 unfinished.

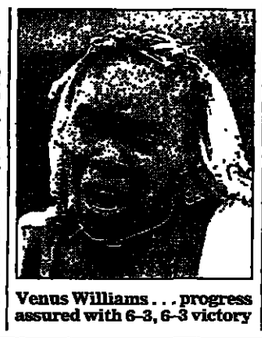
Women's Singles

Holder: M Hingis (Switz)

First round

J NOVOTNA (Cz, 3) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6–2, 6–2; M HINGIS (Switz, 1) bt L M Raymond (US) 7–5, 6–3; V WILLIAMS (US, 7) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6–3, 6–3; S TESTUD (Fr, 14) bt R P Stubbs (Aus) 7–5, 6–0; N TAUZIAT (Fr, 15) bt H Inoue (Japan) 2–6, 6–1, 6–3; M Oremans (Neth) bt E Wagner (Ger) 2–6, 6–3, 6–2; N Kijimuta (Japan) bt K Miller (US) 3–6, 6–3, 6–4; V Ruano Pascual (Sp) bt A Glass (Ger) 6–1, 6–7, 6–3; H Sukova (Cz) leads P SCHNYDER (Switz, 13) 6–3 3–1 unfinished; B Schett (Aut) leads P Stoyanova (Bul) 5–0 unfinished; N Lapenti (Ecu) leads D Princisl (Ger) 6–4, 5–7, 2–2 unfinished, E Makarova (Rus) leads S Talaja (Cro) 3–1 unfin.

● Billie Jean King, the winner of six Wimbledon singles titles, plus another 14 in women's and mixed doubles, believes that the women's game has *never* been so good.



Venus Williams . . . progress assured with 6–3, 6–3 victory

Results

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCHES: Gauteng Falcons 39 Wales 37; NZ Maoris 82 England 14.

Baseball

INTER-LEAGUE: Cincinnati 0 Kansas City 3; Pittsburgh 4 Chicago WS 5; Chicago Cubs 1 Cleveland 3; Houston 3 Minnesota 5; St Louis 4 Detroit 1; Boston 8 Philadelphia 8 (In 10); Tampa Bay 2 Florida 3 (In 12); Toronto 14 Montreal 2; Baltimore 7 NY Mets 2; NY Yankees 6 Atlanta 4; Texas 0 Arizona 6; Anaheim 6 Los Angeles 5; Oakland 8 San Francisco 12; Seattle 3 San Diego 5.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 3 Colorado 2.

Chess

AGENCY GRANDMASTERS (London): **Round Eight:** D Ippolito (US) 0 P Wells 1; C McNab (Scot) 0 R Burnett (US) 1; N McDonald v D Gormally; J Waitzkin (US) v E van den Doel (Neth); R Bates v J Rowson (Scot) drawn. **Leaders:** Van den Doel 6½, Wells 5½, Burnett 5.

Cycling

TOUR OF SWITZERLAND: Seventh stage (Brunnen to Huttwil; 182km): 1, N Aebersold (Switz) Post Swiss 4hr 1min 40sec; 2, R McEwan (Aus) Radobank at 16sec; 3, E Zabel (Ger) Deutsche Telekom; 4, C Mengin (Fr) La Francaise De Jeux 5; D Rebellin (It) Polti; 5, G Gasparoni (It) Amore Vita; 7, M Fondriest (It) Cofidis; 8, D Moncoutie (Fr) Cofidis; 9, F Casagrande (It) Cofidis; 10, N Vogondy (Fr) Scrigno all same time. **Overalls:** 1, S Garzelli (It) Mercatone 32.02:10; 2, L Piepoli (It) Sasco 1.23; 3, B Zberg (Switz) Radobank 1.30; 4, V Belli (It) Festina 1.37; 5, Casagrande 1.39; 6, Rebellin 2.55; 7, B Riis (Den) Deutsche Telekom 3.19; 8, R Meier (Switz) Cofidis 3.20; 9, A Shatir (Kaz) Asics 3.35; 10, P Luttenberger (Aut) Radobank 3.36.
TOUR OF CATALONIA: Sixth stage (Tarraga to Bot Tauli; 180.4km): 1, H Buenahora (Col) Vitalicio 5hr 19min 30sec; 2, F Escartin (Sp) at 1sec; 3, F Frattini (It) 16; 4, A Olano (Sp); 5, G Totshnig (Aut) same time; 6, F Cerezo (Sp) 23; 7, A Elli (It) 31; 8, M Beltran (Sp) st; 9, J Castelblanco (Col) 37; 10, M Podenzana (It) st. **Overalls:** 1, Olano 21:15.42; 2, Escartin at 54sec; 3, Podenzana 1.07; 4, Totschnig 1.12; 5, Buenahora 1.19; 6, A Casero (Sp) 1.28; 7, V Perez (Col) 1.32; 8, Elli 1.39; 9, Beltran 1.43; 10, L Perez (Sp) 1.58.
ISLE OF MAN INTERNATIONAL WEEK: Open 25-mile time trial: 1, G Butler (Norwood Paragon) 54min 26sec; 2, S Duff (Johnstone Wh) 55.33; 3, G Stirzaker (VC St Raphael) 55.38; 4, R Wooles (Cwmcarn Paragon) 56.11; 5, C Pritchard (Condor Cycles RT) 56.23; 6, K Murray (Army TT) 56.51. **Team:** RAF CC (R Berry/B Buss/A Hill) 2hr 55min 19sec. **Women:** M Johnson (Letchworth Velo) 1:00.18. **Veterans:** L Foster (Border City Wh) 57.31.

Cricket

AON TROPHY: Hove: Sussex 292–9 (R K Rao 82, C M Mole 51). Kent 185–7 (J B Hockley 61, S C Willis 58). Sussex won by 107 runs. **Southampton:** Hampshire 220–9 (J S Laney 65, D A Kenway 57; Traynor 5–29). Gloucester 221–5 (N J Trainor 60no, M J Cawdron 49no). Gloucester won by five wickets. **Wellbeck Cds:** Nottinghamshire 298 (S J Musgrove 115, A G Wharf 50). Yorkshire 297–9 (R Williamson 52). Nottinghamshire won by one run.
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0): **Dunstables:** Northants 301–8 dec (A J Swann 69, K J Innes 50, D J Roberts 47) v Middlesex. **Hartlepools:** Lancashire 248–8 (P R Sleep 68no, M Brown 59, N T Wood 48; Searle 5–74) v Durham. **Southampton:** Gloucester 343–3 (N J Trainor 122, R J Cunliffe 78no) v Hampshire.
INDEPENDENCE CUP (Colombo): New Zealand 219–8 (50 overs; N Astle 81; Agarkar 3–52; H Singh 2–32. India 131–2 (34.2 overs; S Tendulkar 53, M Azharuddin 53no). Abandoned as a draw.

Fixtures

Rugby League

FIRST DIVISION: Dewsbury v Wakefield (7.45); Featherstone v Swinton; Hull KR v Hunslet; Whitehaven v Rochdale; Widnes v Keighley.
TOUR MATCH: N Coast Aboriginals v BARLA GB Britain (10.30am, Coffs Harbour).

Cricket

NATWEST TROPHY (10.30; one day): **First rounds: Chester:** Cheshire v Essex. **Derby:** Derbyshire v Cumberland. **Exmouth:** Devon v Yorkshire. **Bournemouth:** Dorset v Hampshire. **Cardiff:** Glamorgan v Bedfordshire. **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire. **Canterbury:** Kent v Cambridgeshire. **Old Trafford:** Lancashire v Sussex. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Staffordshire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Herefordshire. **Colwyn Bay:** Minor Counties Wales v Nottinghamshire. **Lakenham:** Norfolk v Durham. **Edinburgh:** Scotland v Worcestershire. **Taunton:** Somerset v Holland. **The Oval:** Surrey v Buckinghamshire. **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire v Ireland.
TOUR MATCH (11.30; three days): **Fenners:** British Universities v South Africa.
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0; three days): **Cheslesforde:** Essex v Somerset. **Pontefract:** Glamorgan v Derbyshire. **Ashford:** Kent v Leicestershire. **Worksop:** Nottinghamshire v Surrey.

Sport in brief

Cricket

India's Sachin Tendulkar was last night named the Coopers and Lybrand International Cricketer of the Year in London. Tendulkar was unable to accept the plaudits personally as earlier in the day he had scored 53 off 36 balls in Colombo, where a downpour ruined India's chances of winning their Independence Cup one-day triangular match against New Zealand.

India, set a target of 220, were 131 for two in 24.2 overs when rain stopped play. The captain Mohammad Azharuddin was 53 not out and Nathan Astle top-scored for New Zealand with 81.

Graham Thorpe was named England's player of the year and South Africa's Shaun Pollock international young cricketer of the year.

Sussex are giving trials to Carl Greenidge, the son of the former West Indies opener, Gordon. Carl, 19, a right-arm fast-medium bowler, is on the MCC groundstaff.

Motor Racing

The new British-American Formula One team will have the same engines as top rivals Williams and Benetton from the start of the next grand prix season, *writes Alan Henry.*

After buying the Tyrrell team last season as a base, BAR's Reynard-built car will use Renault-designed Mecachrome V10 engines supplied by Supertec Sport, a company run by the former Benetton team chief, Flavio Briatore.

Athletics

Maria Mutola, of Mozambique, has been stripped of her world indoor 800m record because she ran out of her lane in the race in Lieven in February, *writes Duncan Mackay.* Her run of 1min 56.38sec will not be recognised and the record remains at 1.56.40, set by Christine Wachtel of East Germany in 1988.

Boxing

Herbie Hide, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion from Norwich, will make a second title defence against the No. 1 challenger, Germany's Willi Fischer, in England in August or September.

Ice Hockey

The Ayr-based Scottish Eagles will make their debut in Division F of the European League against the visiting German champions Adler Mannheim on September 15.

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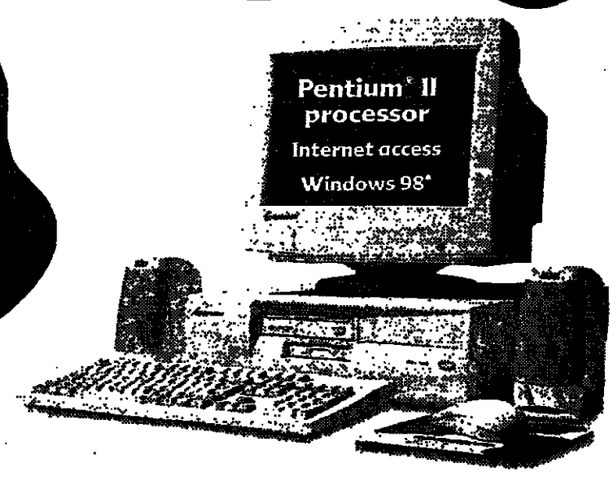
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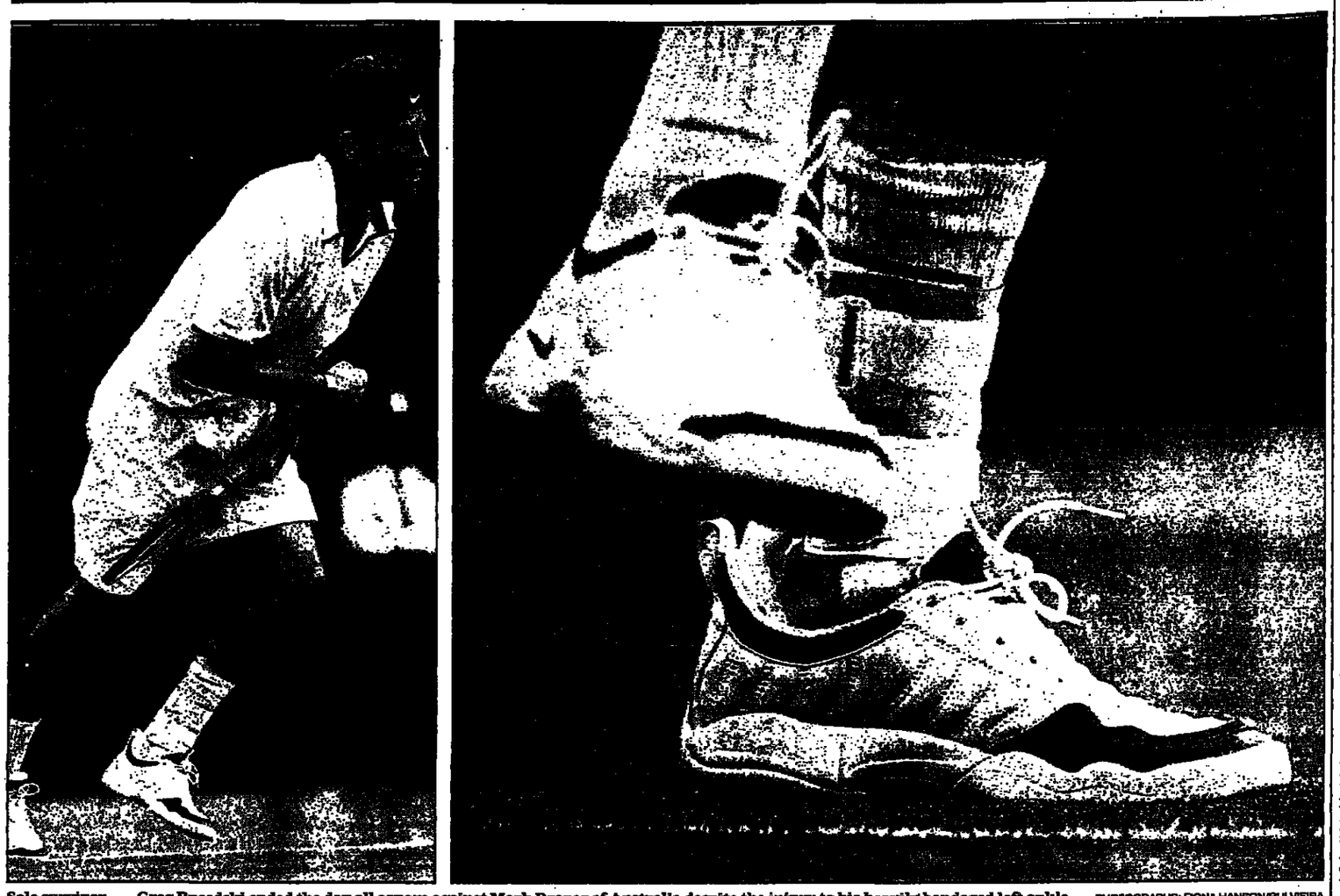
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Wimbledon 98



Sole survivor . . . Greg Rusedski ended the day all square against Mark Draper of Australia despite the injury to his heavily bandaged left ankle PHOTOGRAPHS: FIONA HANSON/RUI VIEIRA

Stubborn Rusedski limps on

Britain's No. 1 struggles to overcome the pain barrier

Stephen Bierley

THERE is a determined and stubborn streak to Greg Rusedski's character which has served him remarkably well since he decided to play for Britain three years ago. It has seen him rise to his current position of No. 5 in the world, become Britain's undisputed No. 1, and reach the final of last year's US Open.

But this same obstinacy and resolution, the stuff of champions, has surely been badly misplaced at this year's Wimbledon Championships.

His damaged left ankle, which he injured during the Stella Artois championships at Queen's 12 days ago, is patently not mended, and Rusedski, for all his burning desire to play and not let down the tennis public who have so eagerly stood by him ever since he left Canada, has surely been ill-advised to play.

Tony Pickard, his coach, and Steve Green, his trainer, were apparently against him starting his first-round match yesterday against Australia's Mark Draper, and noticably distanced themselves from the rest of the Rusedski entourage on No. 1 court.

Pickard was clearly worried that Rusedski might inflict further serious damage on the ligaments of his ankle which were torn at Queen's. Such injuries rarely heal in such a short period, and Rusedski, by trying to please everybody for the best of motives, may be putting the rest of the year in jeopardy.

When persistent drizzle, which had prevented any play until after 2pm, brought the action to an end at 7.30 under lowering skies, Rusedski was trailing 6-4, 2-6, 4-5 against Draper.

He would surely be best advised to retire this morning rather than take any more risks.Despite making the decision to play last Sunday,Rusedski is clearly badly restricted by the injury which was heavily strapped. The British No 1 tried his best to disguise how much he was being hampered, but he resembled a man walking with one wellington boot full of water.

Draper, who qualified for these Championships, had neither the wit nor experience to fully exploit Rusedski's initial deficiency of movement, particularly in the opening set when the British No. 1 served up no less than nine double faults.

Two such errors in Rusedski's third service game saw Draper on the verge of an early break but Rusedski summoned up enough fortitude and courage,including three aces, to keep his nose in front.

There was a huge amount of support for him on No. 1 court, almost as much as that protecting his ankle. "Give me a wave, Greg," someone shouted, and Greg waved. "Give me your shirt, Greg," came another call. He declined.

'Give it up, Greg' must have been Pickard's thought, but it was only the elements that ultimately took Rusedski off court.

A dreadful service game by Draper, which contained a string of volleying errors, saw Rusedski clinch the first set, but he immediately dropped his own serve at the beginning of the second as the double faults continued with a vengeance.

Draper seemed finally to realise he was playing a more-or-less-one-legged opponent and began to move him around, although with no particular conviction, and noticably without playing any lobs, potentially the most damaging of shots in such a situation.

Another break of serve saw Draper, a virtual rookie at this level, ease through the second set, while another break in the third set saw the Australian on the point of serving for a 2-1 lead when the skies finally closed in.

Rusedski had served 12 aces and made 18 double faults — every inch the "plucky Brit". Yet it was difficult to fathom exactly why he had come onto court in the first place.

Even if he were to return and beat Draper today he would surely go out to the first player he met of any quality, which would in all probability be the American Todd Martin in the next round.

The injury has clearly been immensely frustrating for Rusedski, seeded No. 4, who had genuine hopes of challenging for the title, to become the first British man since Fred Perry, 62 years ago, to claim the Wimbledon men's singles crown.

To finish a tournament struggling against injury may be deemed brave; to begin with one is surely foolhardy.

Cricket's roots are showing, not growing



Paul Weaver

YOU may be reading this week-old newspaper on holiday, wearing the complexion of a diseased radish while your stomach gurgles and bubbles like a laboratory test tube in Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde.

As you sit there, in the shadowy corner of your favourite taverna/bistro/trattoria, regretting that extra plateful of something you did not truthfully recognise, and that second bottle of '76 (what did you expect for 76 pesetas anyway?) your sullen, sunken, holly-berry minces may have fallen upon this piece of yellowing newsprint and with your heart aching with thoughts of dear Albion you will have reached out a trembling mitt to catch up with the news.

You probably feel irritable and impatient, so I will be brief. Tim and Greg blew it down among the strawberrries and Pimm's at London SW19 and England were beaten by Colombia in the World Cup, despite a hat-trick from Michael Owen, who came on for Teddy Sheringham for the last five minutes.

As for the cricket, you will be back in time to see what happens. The cricket is worse than anything that might happen at Wimbledon or France 98 because it will go on all summer. It is not a shock or a sudden pain but a slowly evolving recognition of disappointment.

This week England were beaten by South Africa by 10 wickets in three and a bit days. It was all over on Sunday afternoon and cricket shuffled off-stage like a nervous young thespian who had forgotten his lines as the football and tennis swaggered into the Monday limelight looking like Gielgud and Olivier.

And while few people seriously expect the World Cup to be lifted or Wimbledon to be conquered, there was some expectation that England, with a shiny new captain, might defeat South Africa at Lord's.

Being beaten by South Africa is particularly hard to take for some. Everyone expects to be beaten by Australia. "Well, what can you do against Shane Warne? Bloody genius. Best leg-spinner in the history of the world."

Or West Indies. "No one's got a chance when Ambrose and Walsh are steaming in, have they?"

Or Pakistan, when they're in form. "Can't blame England, can you? That Wasim Akram is something else, and what about Waqar and Mushy?"

Being beaten by South Africa, however, forces us to ask uncomfortable questions about ourselves. Why is South Africa, a side which unlike Australia and Pakistan is less individually gifted than England, despite Allan Donald's pre-eminence, still the better team? Which they are.

I cannot give an answer, only mumble something about hunger and motivation and team ethos and hand you over to a sports psychologist.

There is a deeper worry. Wandering around Lord's as the magnificent new stands gleam in the midsummer sun, inhaling the splendour and almost hearing the huge television sums jingle-jangle into the English Cricket Board piggy-bank, it is possible to believe that all is well with the daft old flannelled game.

The rush of sponsors leaving the daft old game sounds like the stampede to the Klondike and club cricket is shrinking faster than a £10 Armani shirt

It is not.

The rush of sponsors leaving sounds like the stampede to the Klondike and club cricket is shrinking faster than that £10 Armani shirt you bought in Hong Kong. Worst of all, children are losing interest. Where were they at Lord's?

"The concern for me is that the role model has disappeared," the Middlesex scorer Mike Smith told me the other day. "Ten years ago a kid wanted to be Ian Botham or David Gower. Now he wants to be David Beckham or Chris Evans."

True. These scorers know all about cricket. They keep a beady eye on every ball while the rest of us are looking at the gleaming stands and the fluttering flags.

They note every leg-bye and short run and much else, and anyone who can computer-score with one hand and work out Duckworth-Lewis with the other is bound to be nobody's fool.

I hope I do not sound like some wailing banshee, because cricket is not dying, but despite all the nips and tucks it is showing its age. If it does not start to address the young (I'm talking about more than Kwik Cricket), they will not be looking for the cricket scores when they plug into the cyber-taverna on their summer hols in the next millennium.

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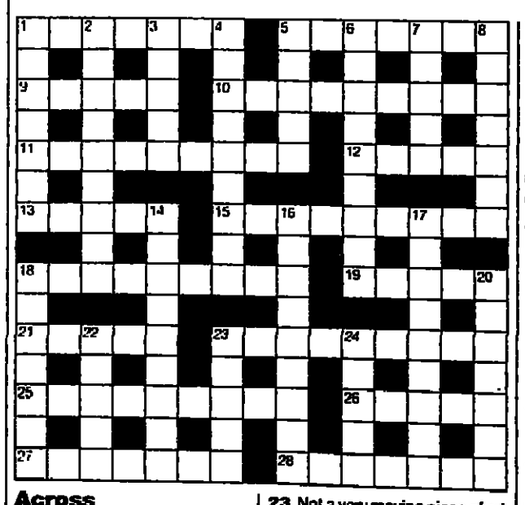
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Why do rugby fans sing Swing Low Sweet Chariot?
This was originally sung by African-American slaves in the 19th century. Nobody can quite remember how it became a traditional rugby song, but I am told that it was adopted by England supporters during a match against Ireland in 1988.
Notes & Queries

G2 p7

Guardian Crossword No 21,309

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Across

1 Last offer (4,3)
5 New GCE aid possibly. Not free (5,2)
9 Some preparation for the term in mathematics (5)
10 They're on the inside and receive the dirt (3-6)
11 One meal prepared after church. It's subject to change (9)
12 Police weapon for which the city has time to call (5)
13 Drunk showing tension? (5)
15 Aircraft instrument I came across in shift (9)
18 A winter month, so gent prepared to clear the passage (9)
19 Snappy during the winter season? (5)
21 Outstanding part of bridle reflected bone (5)
23 Not a very moving piece of art (5,4)
25 Making ropy descent, Jack's travelling on ship, we hear (9)
26 Pick up a new angle (5)
27 Everyone leaves the checked fabric rags (7)
28 Back girl in short game. It's held over in summer (7)

Down

1 Animal consuming one firm vegetable (7)
2 Teach girl in a form showing little interest (9)
3 Bracing air round the region (5)
4 Playing Mabel at eg chess, say? (5,4)
5 Beginning of century soon (as a general rule) (5)
6 Bird showing remorse grabbing most of fruit (9)
7 After disaster initially, a significant blow remained (5)
8 North American society row is not so pleasant (7)
14 Temporary accommodation putting up musical in experimental attempt (9)
16 Putting to work finding the sum (7,2)
17 Sailor to take meal on ship, producing delay (9)
18 Take away part of ill-made traction engine (7)
20 Eastern bird one left for ever (7)
22 Act as a burrow for badger? (5)
23 Cheese roll? (5)
24 Drink, mainly to give pleasure, coming up (5)

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ABITIBI

Inla blamed for attack as people injured in border

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

REPUBLICAN dissidents delivered a stark reminder of the fragility of peace in Northern Ireland when a huge explosion ripped through a south Armagh village on the eve of today's historic elections to the new assembly.

The Irish National Liberation Army (Inla) was linked to the car bomb attack on a reinforced RUC station and army base in Newtownhamilton, near the border in Co Armagh. The Inla is opposed to the Good Friday Agreement, which sets out the proposed framework for government in Northern Ireland.

A 12-year-old boy was taken to Daisy Hill Hospital in nearby Newry with chest injuries but was last night said to be stable.

Another five people suffered minor... said that two... Belfast, ... gave their ... evacuate the... where ... parked. One ... ognised...

The organisation... three ... groups ... ceasefire ... last July. ... Continuity ... called. ... formed ... mer ... quarters.

Security ... are ... working ... effort to ...

Paul ... development ... "The timing of ... clearly ... and ... they ... of violence ... racy and ... all that ... ern ... for the future.

Inside Britain

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